AN AUTHENTIC COPY OF THE CORRESPONDENCE IN INDIA,

BETWEEN THE

COUNTRY POWERS

AND THE HONOURABLE THE

EAST INDIA COMPANY's SERVANTS;

CONTAINING

AMONGST MANY OTHERS THE LETTERS OF

GOVERNOR HASTINGS,
J. MACPHERSON, ESQ.
J. STABLES, ESQ.
E. WHELER, ESQ.
SIR JOHN CUMMING,
NATH. MIDDLETON, ESQ.
FRANCIS FOWKE, ESQ.
JAMES FRASER, ESQ.
JOHN BRISTOW, ESQ.
DAVID ANDERSON, ESQ.
GENERAL STIBBERT,
COL. MORGAN,
MAJOR PALMER,
MAJOR BROWN,

&c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL AT CALCUTTA.

The Whole forming a Collection of the most Interesting India-Papers, which were laid before Parliament in the Session of 1786.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. DEBRETT, OPPOSITE BURLINGTON-HOUSE, PICCADILLY.

M DCC LXXXVII.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Contents to Volume the Third.

Papers relative to Charges IV. *and* XVI.

Page

COPY of Proceedings, &c. relative to the Charges made by Mr. Hastings against Mr. Middleton, late Resident at the Court of Oude, and against the Assistant Resident Mr. Johnson; also relative to the State and Condition of the Country of Oude, and its Dependencies, and of the reigning Family thereof - 5

Bengal Secret Consultations, August 15, 1782—Letter to Mr. Nathaniel Middleton, Resident at Lucknow ibid.

Bengal Secret Consultations, September 2, 1782 - 6

Ditto, September 6, 1782—Letter from the Commander in Chief - - - - - - 8

Letter to Major General Giles Stibbert - - 9

Bengal Secret Consultations, September 12, 1782—Letter from General Stibbert - - - 10

Letter to Colonel William Blair, commanding at Chunar 11

Bengal Secret Consultations, September 23, 1782—Letter to Colonel Sir John Cumming - - 12

Ditto, September 26, 1782—Letter from General Stibbert—Letter from Colonel Morgan to Major General Stibbert, September 8, 1782 - - 13

Letters from Mr. Middleton - - - 14

Letter to Mr. John Bristow - - - 15

Bengal Secret Consultations, September 30, 1782——Letter from Mr. Middleton——Skocka from the Vizier to Mr. Middleton - - - - - - 17

Letter to Mr. Richard Johnson - - - 20

Bengal Secret Consultations, October 14, 1782——Letter from the Commander in Chief——Letter to Col. James Morgan, commanding the 2d Brigade - 22

Letter to Major General Giles Stibbert, Commander in Chief, &c. - - - - - 23

Bengal Secret Consultations, Oct. 21, 1782——Letter from Mr. Middleton, recorded September 30, 1782 25

Letter from Major J. Landey, to the Commander in Chief, dated Benares, October 9, 1782 - 27

Letter from Colonel Sir John Cummings—Bengal General Consultations, October 24, 1782 - - 28

Bengal Secret Consultations, October 24, 1782 - 29

Disposition of the Forces in the Province of Oude and District of Benares, October 23, 1782—Letter to Col. James Morgan, commanding the 2d Brigade, Cawnpore - - - - - - - 31

Letter to Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court - - - - - - - - 32

Secret Letter from Bengal, Nov. 10, 1782 - - 33

Digitized by Google

Page

Bengal Secret Consultations, November 22, 1782—Letters from Mr. Bristow - - - - - 34
Minute of the Board on Mr. Bristow's Letters of Nov. 4 37
Letter from Major Genneral Stibbert - - 38
Bengal Secret Consultations, Nov. 25, 1782——Letter from Mr. Bristow - - - 41
Letters to Mr. Bristow and Major William Roberts 42
Letter from Major General Stibbert - - 47
Letters to Colonel James Morgan and Colonel Sir John Cumming - - - - 50
Secret Letter from Bengal, December 4, 1782 - 53
Bengal Secret Consultations, April 21, and June 12, 1783 54
Letters to and from Mr. Middleton - - 55
Letters to the Hon. Warren Hastings - - 59
Letter from Lataufut Ally Khan to Nazir Collah Beg Khan, his Vakeel - - - - 62
Letter to the Hon. Warren Hastings, Dec. 27, 1781 63
Letters from the Bhowe Begum to the Resident, and the Answers thereto - - - - 65
Letters from the Nabob Vizier to the Resident - 69
Letter from Mr. Middleton to the Hon. Warren Hastings, dated Lucknow, Dec. 31, 1781 - - 73
Assignments received for the Year 1189—List of current Claims upon the Nabob, for the Year 1189 - 74
Letters to Nathaniel Middleton, Esq; Jan. 1782 - ibid.
Letters from Mr. Middleton to the Hon. Warren Hastings, dated Lucknow, &c. &c. Jan. 1782 - 79
Copy of Proceedings, &c. relative to the Charges made by Mr. Hastings against Mr. Middleton, late Resident at the Court of Oude, and against the Assistant Resident, Mr. Johnson; also relative to the State and Condition of the Country of Oude, and its Dependencies, and of the reigning family thereof - - - - 105
Bengal Secret Consultations, July 28, 1783—Mr. Middleton's Defence - - - - - ibid.
Appendix to Mr. Middleton's Defence—Letter from Mr. Middleton to the Hon. Warren Hastings - 111
The Nabob's Treaty or Agreement with the Hon. the Governor General. The Original in the Persian Language, was signed and sealed by his Excellency 117
Letter from the Hon. Warren Hastings, to Mr. Middleton dated Chunar, Sept. 23, 1781 - - 118
Letters from Mr. Middleton to the Hon. Warren Hastings, dated at different Periods - - 119
List of current Claims upon the Nabob, for the Year 1189—Assignments received for the same Year - 136
Orders respecting Furrackabad - - 137
Letter from the Governor General and Council to Mr. Nathaniel Middleton, Resident at Oude, July 11, 1782 ibid.
Letter from Mr. Middleton to the Hon. Board, May 27, 1782 - - - - - 138
Extracts of Mr. Johnson's Defence - - ibid.
Mode of appointing an Aumil at the Court of Oude 145

Extracts

Digitized by Google

Page

Extracts from printed Orders, dated Chunar, Sept. 19, 1781 - - - - - 146
Letter from the Resident, dated Sept. 7, 1782, to the Hon. Warren Hastings, Governor General, and the Members of the Supreme Council, Fort William 148
Translation of a Letter from the Resident at the Vizier's Court to the Nabob - - - - - 149
Letter from Mr. Middleton to Major Thomas Scott, commanding the 8th Regiment marching to Forruckabad, dated Lucknow, Sept 9, 1782 - - 151
Bengal Secret Consultations, Aug. 25, 1783 - 153
Statement of the Sums realized by the late Resident at the Vizier's Court, in the Fussulee Year 1189, commencing Sept. 3, 1781, and ending Sept. 21, 1782 - 154
Bengal Secret Consultations, Sept. 4, 1789—Mr. Wheler's Minutes, containing his Opinion upon the Defence of Mr. Middleton, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Bristow - - - - - 156
Bengal Secret Consultations, Sept. 22, 1783—Ditto, Oct. 6, 1783—Letter from Mr. Johnson - 160
Bengal Secret Consultations, Oct, 13, 1783———Mr. Macpherson's Opinion of Mr. Middleton's Defence 161
Mr. Macpherson's Opinion of Mr. Johnson's Defence ibid.
Bengal Secret Consultations, Nov. 25, 1783—Letter from Mr. Middleton - - - 163
Secretary's Letter to Mr. Johnson - - 164
General Letter from Bengal, Oct. 20, 1783——Bengal Secret Consultations, Nov. 10, 1783—Letter from Mr. Johnson to the Secretary - - - - 165
Letter from Mr. Johnson to the Hon. Warren Hastings, Fort William, Oct. 31, 1783 - - - - 166
Letter from the same to Edward Hay, Esq; Secretary Calcutta, Nov. 4, 1783 - - . 167
The Secretary's Answer thereto - - 168
General Letter from Bengal, Dec. 30, 1783—Bengal General Consultations, Jan. 5, 1784——Letter from Mr. Middleton - - - - - 171
Copy of Proceedings and Correspondence relative to the State and Condition of the Country of Oude and its Dependencies, and of the reigning Family thereof, including the Charges made by Mr. Hastings against Mr. Bristow, lata Resident at the Court of the Nabob Vizier; and Correspondence, &c. relative to Almas Ali Khan; the Proceedings relative to Mr. Hastings's last Deputation to Lucknow; and the Correspondence of Major Palmer, together with his Instructions 173
Copy of the Treaty of Chunar - - ibid.
Letter to Mr. Nathaniel Middleton, Resident at the Court of the Nabob Vizier; Chunar, Sept. 23, 1781 175
Bengal General Consultations, Feb. 11, 1783—Letter and Enclosures from Mr. Bristow - - - 177
Translation of a Dustuck to Munsoon Cawn, Phousdar of Illalabad—Letter from Col. Sir John Cumming, dated 6 Suffer, to Khaja Ain ul Deen - - 181

Digitized by Google

Page

Letter from Col. Sir John Cumming, dated the 13th Suffer, to Khaja Ain ul Dien - - - 182
Letter from Khoga Ain ul Dien to Mr. Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court - - - - 183
Letter from Sir John Cumming to the Vizier - ibid.
The Vizier's Letter in Answer to the above—Mr. Bristow's Letter to Col. Sir John Cumming, dated Lucknow, Jan. 20, 1783 - - - - - 184
Letter from Sir John Cumming to Mr. John Bristow, datew, dated Futty Ghur, Jan. 23, 1783 - 185
Letter from Mr. John Bristow, to Col. Sir John Cumming, dated Lucknow, Jan. 20, 1783—Answer to the same - - - - - 190
Letter from Colonel Sir John Cumming to his Excellency the Vizier—Letter from the same to Hyder Beg Cawn 191
Letter from Khogah Ail un Deen to Col. Sir John Cumming—Letter from the Hon. Governor General and Council to Mr. John Bristow, dated Fort William, Oct. 24, 1782 - - - - 192
Letter from the Hon. Governor General and Council to Col. Sir John Cumming, dated Fort William, Sept. 17, 1782 - - - - - 193
Bengal General Consultations, March 3, 1783—Letters from Col. Sir John Cumming - - - 195
Letter to the Hon. Warren Hastings, Esq; dated Futty Ghur, Jan. 27, 1783—Letter from Col. Sir John Cumming to Mr. Bristow, dated Jan. 27, 1783 - 197
Letter from Sir John Cummings to the Hon. Warren Hastings, dated Futty Ghur, Feb. 1, 1783 - 198
Copy of Instructions to Capt. Hankshaw, or Officer commanding the Detachment - - - 202
Extracts from some of the Resident's Letters - 203
Reply agreed to be written to Col. Sir John Cumming 205
Letter agreed to be written to Mr. Bristow - 206
Bengal Secret Consultations, March 3, 1783—Letter to the Hon. Warren Hastings, from Mr. Bristow, Lucknow, Dec. 19, 1782 - - - 207
Letter from Mr. Bristow to the Hon. Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. Members of the Supreme Council, dated Lucknow, Dec. 30, 1782 - 208
Letter to Major William Palmer, on a Deputation from his Excellency the Vizier to the Nabob Fyzulla Cawn, dated Lucknow, Dec. 28, 1782 - - 209
Jumma of the Jaghyre of Rampore, for the Fusullee Year 1190, agreeable to Accounts furnished by the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn, through his Vaqueel at Lucknow. 213
Account of the Jumma of Fyzoolla Cawn's Jaghire, for the Fussullee Year 1189, with his Expences, agreeable to accounts furnished by Agents employed for the Purpose, by Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court - - - - - - - 214
Letter agreed to be written to Mr. John Bristow, Resident at Oude, Jan. 23, 1783 - - - 216

Letter

Digitized by Google

Page

Letter from Mr. Bristow in Answer to the above, Lucknow, Nov. 23, 1782—Letter from Mr. Bristow, Dec. 1, 1782, to the Hon. Warren Hastings, &c. - 218
Letters from Mr. Bristow to the same - - 224
Extract from Mr. Middleton's Letter, Oct. 23, 1782 227
Letter from Mr. Middleton to John Bristow, Esq; Oct. 23, 1782 - - - - - 230
Letter from Mr. Morgan to John Bristow, Esq; dated Cawnpore, Jan. 22, 1783 - - 231
Letters from Mr. Bristow to the Hon. Warren Hastings, &c. Jan. 1783 - - - - 233
Letter from Major William Palmer to Mr. John Bristow, Jan. 24, 1783 - - - - - 235
Letter from Mr. Bristow to the Hon. Warren Hastings, &c. Lucknow, Jan. 30, 1783 - - 237
From his Excellency the Vizier Asof ul Dowla, to Mr. Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court - - 241
Letter from Mr. Martin Gilpin to John Bristow, Esq; Fyzabad, Nov. 18, 1782 - - - 243
Letter agreed to be written to Mr. John Bristow - 244
Bengal Secret Consultations, March 6, 1783—Letter from Major William Salmon to Mr. John Bristow, dated Rampore, Feb. 26, 1783 - - - 246
Letter agreed to be written to Mr. John Bristow, Fort William, March 6, 1783 - - - 247
Secret Letter from Bengal. March 10, 1783—Bengal General Consultations, March 7, 1783 - - 248
Bengal General Consultations, March 10, 1783—The Board record their different Opinions respecting Mr. Fowke's Appointment to Benares - - 250
Bengal Secret Consultations, March 24, 1783—Instructions approved and sent to Mr. Fowkes - - 254
Bengal Secret Consultations, March 24, 1783—Major William Palmer's Letter recorded - - ibid.
Secret Letter from Bengal, April 5, 1783 - - 256
Extract of the Secret Proceedings of the Hon. the Governor General and Council, April 21, 1783 - - 258
From the Nuvvaub Vizier to the Hon. the Governor General, received March 28, 1783 - - 259
Ditto, received April 7, 1783 - - - 259
Letters from Hyder Beg Khan to the Governor General 265
Narrative of Substance of different Conversations, respecting the Appointment of a Treasurer and Comptroller of the Nuvvaub's Household Establishments - 276
Correspondence between Hyder Beg Khaun, the Governor General and Mr. Bristow - - 281
Mr. Middleton's General Letter, Oct. 23, 1782 301
Secret Proceedings of the Hon. the Governor General and Council, May 9, 1783 - - - 323
Proceedings of the Governor General and Council, in their Secret Department, May 22, 1783 - 328
Correspondence between Hyder Beg Khaun, the Governor General and Mr. Bristow - - - 331

Account

Digitized by Google

Page

Account of the Articles for the Regulation of the Country and Habitation of his Highness - - 338

Opinions of the Board upon the Governor General's Motion - - - - - - - - - 341

Received Letter from Mr. Bristow, May 13, 1783 - 344

Letter from Mr. Bristow to Mr. Cowper, with the Answer, May, 1783 - - - - 349

Mr. Bristow's Representation, relative to the Institution of Adawluts in the Vizier's Dominions - - 354

Letter from Mr. Bristow to the Governor General, Dec. 12, 1782 - - - - - - 358

The Governor General's Instructions to the Resident Oct. 23, 1782—The Resident's Letter to the Governor General, Dec. 12, 1782 - - - - 361

Memorial of Moley Mahomed Mubeen - - - 362

The Deposition of Hussun Atta Beg - - 367

Letters between Mr. Bristow and Hyder Beg Cawn - 368

Letter from Molovy Mowbine to Mr. Bristow - 371

Letter to Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court, signed E. Hay, May 29, 1783 - - 378

Digitized by Google

PAPERS RELATING TO CHARGES, IV. AND XVI.*

COPY OF PROCEEDINGS, &c. RELATIVE TO THE CHARGES MADE BY MR. HASTINGS AGAINST MR. MIDDLETON, LATE RESIDENT AT THE COURT OF OUDE, AND AGAINST THE ASSISTANT RESIDENT, MR. JOHNSON; ALSO RELATIVE TO THE STATE AND CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY OF OUDE, AND ITS DEPENDENCIES, AND OF THE REIGNING FAMILY THEREOF.

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, 15th August 1782.

THE Governor General lays before the Board the following copies of letters, which have been written by him to Mr. Middleton, Resident at the Court of the Vizier, and to Hyder Beg Cawn, the acting Minister. These will sufficiently express the purpose for which he desires to enter them in the Consultation. To enter into any further explanation of his motives at this time would be premature—he hopes that there will be no occasion for it at any. If there should, all the circumstances which have a relation to the general subject of the letters shall be then submitted to the Board in their fullest detail. He thinks it proper to inform the Board, that by more recent advices he is informed, that Almass Ally Khan had not actually passed the line of the Vizier's dominions, but was encamped on the borders of the Jumma, and with a certain indication of such a design. He has yet received no report of this conduct in Almass Ally Cawn from the Resident, nor from any person in office at Lucknow.

To Mr. Nath. Middleton, Resident at Lucknow.

Sir,

I have had the mortification to hear, that Almass Ally Cawn has, at length, as was long since foreboded, fled from the Vizier's dominions, taking with him an immense treasure, the fruit of his embezzlement and known oppression. Though this intelligence has not come through its authentic channel, I have no doubt of its truth.—I am compelled to credit the reports, which assure me, that every part of the Vizier's Administration is in the same disorder. For this, and every other failure in the instructions, which I

* *This and the following papers concerning Oude, from which many of the foregoing Extracts have been previously taken, were printed at large on the motion of Major Scott.*

Digitized by Google

gave to you in writing on the 23d September, at Chunar, you are totally responsible to this Government, as Hyder Beg Cawn is to the Nabob; for to your joint hands has the Administration of his affairs been from that time committed.

I have received your repeated assurances, addressed to myself and to the Board, that the Nabob's debt to the Company should be completely discharged by the close of the year. In my fears for a disappointment in this expectation, and in the contrary belief, that, in its actual train, the debt is more likely to exceed the amount at which it stood the last year, than to be paid, I hereby apprize you, that if, at the end of the fussulee year, any part of it shall remain in arrears, I shall move the Board to call upon you publicly to account for it; and that you may know that this declaration is not made on light grounds, I shall enter a copy of this letter upon the Company's Records. It will do you no injury if you disprove the justice of my suspicions, by the effects of your exertions.

I have written to Hyder Beg upon the same subject, and intended to refer you to his letter for my fuller sentiments; but I shall not have it ready for dispatch for this post.

Fort William, I am, Sir, &c. &c.
10th August, 1782. (Signed)
WARREN HASTINGS.

To Nath. Middleton, Esquire.

Sir,

Enclosed I send you a letter for Hyder Beg Cawn, which, if you are at Lucknow, I desire you will yourself deliver without delay. If you shall happen to be absent from that place, I request you will forward it to him.—I will send you a copy of it by the Dawk of to-morrow.

Fort William, I am, Sir, &c. &c.
11th August, 1782. (Signed)
WARREN HASTINGS.

Sir,

Enclosed is a copy of the letter, which I sent you by the Dawk, of last night, for Hyder Beg Cawn.

Fort William, I am, Sir, &c. &c.
12th August, 1782. (Signed)
WARREN HASTINGS.

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 2d Sept. 1782.

THE Board being assembled in this department, and having desired the attendance of the Commander in Chief, he is admitted

The

Digitized by Google

The Board inform the Commander in Chief that private accounts have been received from the Vizier's country, which mention disturbances to have arisen between a party of the Vizier's forces at Darranaghur and the troops of Fyzulla Cawn, stationed upon the borders of his dominions, in which two battalions of the former had been entirely routed. Advices have also been received, though no public letters are yet come from the Resident, that Almas Ali Cawn, the principal Zemindar dependant on the Vizier, is gone off with all his forces, and refuses to submit to the Vizier's authority

Resolved, That the Commander in Chief be therefore desired to form a detachment to be sent to the neighbourhood of Cawnpore, and commanded by Colonel Sir John Cumming, consisting of five regiments of sepoys, one company of Artillery, and a proper proportion of ordnance, to assist in the protection of those countries which may require it.—This detachment to be collected from the most convenient and contiguous stations, without diminishing the force commanded by Colonel Morgan at Cawnpore, which is ordered to consist of five regiments of sepoys.

The Commander in Chief withdraws.

The following letter was afterwards written to the Commander in Chief, by the Secretary.

Sir,

I have it in command from the Honourable the Governor and Council, to repeat to you the desire which was this day personally signified to you in Council, that you will be pleased to issue orders immediately for forming a detachment, as soon as possible, in the neighbourhood of Cawnpore, to be ready to march to any part of the Vizier's dominions, where its presence may be necessary for preserving the peace of the country.—This detachment is to consist of five regiments of sepoys, and one company of artillery, with a proper proportion of ordnance and stores, and to be assembled from the most convenient and contiguous stations, without diminishing the force at present under the command of Colonel Morgan, at Cawnpore, which is exclusively ordered to consist of five regiments of sepoys.

I have further to acquaint you, that the Board have been pleased to appoint Colonel Sir John Cumming to the command of this detachment, you will therefore be pleased to notify the same to him, and direct him to repair to Cawnpore to take the command of it accordingly.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Fort William, (Signed)
2d September 1782. J. P. AURIOL, Secretary.

Digitized by Google

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 6th September, 1782.

READ the following letter from the Commander in Chief:

Gentlemen,

In conformity to your orders, that I would form a detachment, consisting of five regiments of sepoys, and a company of artillery, to be placed under the command of Colonel Sir John Cumming, in the most convenient situation for affording assistance for protecting the dominions of his Excellency the Vizier, I beg leave to inform you, that I have directed the 9th, 10th, 11th, 21st, and 22d Regiments of Sepoys to march immediately from Dinapore, and the 7th company artillery to proceed to Benares by water. I have directed this detatchment to be furnished with the following pieces of ordnance, viz. two 12 pounders, 10 six pounders, two howitzers; part of which is to be transported by water from Dinapore, and the remainder to be supplied from the Chunar Magazine, as also all the ammunition and stores necessary for the service.

The disposition of the regiments under Colonel Blair will not allow me to withdraw any from his command; out of five intended for the Chunar station, one is at Fyzabad, and cannot be recalled, one is fixed at Jecanpore, and half a one in the neighbourhood of Gauzipore; so that, exclusive of the regiments for the immediate defence of Chunar, there remains only one and a half to relieve the corps on command, and to supply occasional detachments: this being the situation, and the regiment lately in the Gooruckpore country being arrived at Dinapore, I found myself under the necessity of forming the detachment for Colonel Sir John Cumming entirely from the troops on that station.

An attention to the healths of the Europeans induced me to order up the company of artillery by water to Benares; at this season of the year they would, in a country entirely overflowed, be exposed to severe distresses and inconveniences, which might be productive of fatal consequences to many of them; and I fear that even after their arrival at that city, they will be liable to suffer much from a march, as the rains will scarcely be over; in which case it may be prudent to let them continue on board the boats as far as Ellahabad, to which place I shall direct all the ordnance and stores to be conveyed by water, as well for their own preservation as for the convenience of carriage.

I understand, though not from official information, that Almass Ali Khân has returned to the Doab, upon certain conditions stipulated between him, the Vizier, and the Resident; in which event perhaps the Board may not deem it necessary for the detachment immediately to march; and if it could be delayed, without endangering the safety of the

Digitized by Google

country,

country, till next month, the troops would be able to move with greater facility, and not be subjected to the incove-niences inseparable from a march at this season of the year, which cannot fail to occasion the loss of many men, by sickness and detention, and do infinite damage to the arms, ammunition, clothing, and camp equipage.

Permit me to observe to the Board that the troops order-ed for this service are three months in arrears, viz June, July, and August; that it is necessary, that if the whole of these arrears cannot be cleared off, that at least a part of them should be paid, before the detachment marches from Dinapore; it is also necessary for the Board to take such measures as they may judge expedient, to provide the pay-master with cash to advance to the troops on their arrival at Benares, as well as for their regular payment when sta-tioned in the Vizier's dominions.

I have the honour be, Gentlemen,
Fort William, you most obedient humble servant,
5th September 1782, (Signed) GILES STIBBERT.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to the Com-mander in Chief.

To Major General Giles Stibbert.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honourable Governor General and Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 5th instant, and acquaint you that they approve of the arrangement you have made, and the orders you have given in consequence, for the march of a sufficient force to form a detachment, under the command of Colonel Sir John Cumming, for the addititional security of the Vizier's dominions; they likewise approve of the directions you have issued respecting the ordnance and stores to be furnished to this detachment, and of your further proposal, that the company of artillery should continue their journey in boats as far as Illahabad, if the duration of the rainy season should make it adviseable.

Measures will be taken for supplying the detachment with one month's pay immediately at Dinapore; and the Re-sident at Benares will be directed to reserve a further sum for them, to be issued on their arrival at that place.

Fort William, I have the honour to be, &c.
6th September 1782. (Signed) J. P. AURIOL,
Secretary.

Resolved, That the following letter be written to the Resident at Benares.

Sir,

A Detachment, consisting of five regiments of sepoys, and one company of artillery, having been ordered to march

Digitized by Google

march from Dinapore to Cawnpore, under the command of Colonel Sir John Cumming, we desire that you will reserve as much money in your hands as you may be able, consistent with the other exigencies of the service, and that you issue the amount, to the extent of three months pay for the detachment, to the paymaster, on his application to you for the same.

Fort William,
6th September 1782. We are, &c.

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 12th Sept. 1782.

READ a letter as follows from General Stibbert:

Gentlemen,

I do myself the honour of laying before you a copy of a letter addressed to me by Colonel Blair, acquainting me with his having, in compliance with the requisition of the Resident at the Vizier's Court, a transcript of which accompanies this, detached from the troops under his command two battalions of sepoys, one to Illahabad, and the other into the district in the neighbourhood of Juanpore.

This demand for troops from the Chunar station will serve to confirm what I mentioned in my letter to the Board of the 5th instant, that the disposition of the regiments under Colonel Blair would not allow me to withdraw any from his command to assist in forming the detachment to be placed under Sir John Cumming in the dominions of his Excellency the Vizier.

Fort William, I have the honour to be, &c. &c.
11th September 1782. (Signed) G. STIBBERT.

Sir,

I take the earliest opportunity to acquaint you, that I have, in compliance with a requisition made to me by the Nabob Vizier, through the Resident, detached two battalions of sepoys, with four six pounders, from the troops under my command, which I hope will meet with your approbation.

That my reasons for complying with this requisition may appear more fully, I do myself the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of the Resident's address to me, requiring the abovementioned force.

As you are in possession of a copy of my instructions, it will perhaps be needless for me to mention, that I am therein directed to comply with the Resident's requisition, through the Nabob, for assistance, should it be wanted in the neighbourhood of Juanpore, which, I understand, the place called Selone is at no great distance from, being about

25 coss:

Digitized by Google

25 coss: I have therefore ordered one of the battalions posted at Juanpore to march, the country about being at present pretty quiet.

I certainly should have considered myself justifiable in refusing to send a battallion to Illahabad, as it is beyond the limits of my command, as I am only directed to send assistance to the Vizier, should it be required, in the neighbourhood of Juanpore; but when I took into consideration that Colonel Morgan's force, at Cawnpore was very small; that the peace of the Zemindary, which must be my first object of attention, has for the present no probability or appearance of being disturbed; and that perhaps a refusal might expose the province of Illahabad to depredation, I flatter myself that you will consider my conduct as justifiable in sending the required assistance, though not quite agreeable to the letter of my instructions.

I beg to acquaint you, Sir, that we are in the utmost distress for bell and private tents upon every occasion; and that there is not one yard of canvas, nor a single tent in the magazine, though the Board of Ordnance has returned the indents for all the regiments in the Zemindary many months ago approved of.

Chunar, I have the honour, &c. &c.
31st Aug. 1782. (Signed) Wm. BLAIR

An exact copy.
(Signed) Wm. Scott, Secretary.

To Colonel William Blair, commanding at Chunar.

Sir,

The honour of your letter of the 29th January should have been acknowledged long since, had any occasion occurred requiring the aid you so obligingly offer.

The Aumil of Allahabad has just been changed on account of his bad conduct, and that district again given to Mirza Ismael Beg; but the country being in much confusion on account of the desolations of the late Aumil Kilabram and his brother Golarsat, the assistance of one battalion, with its guns, will be necessary to settle the new Aumil, and keep every thing quiet. I must therefore request, in concurrence with the desire of his Excellency the Nabob Vizier, that you will detach one battalion and two field pieces to Allahabad, there to wait such instructions as the officer commanding may receive from hence. If there should be no objection or difficulty in your complying with this desire, I beg to be immediately informed of the officer's name who will have the command of the detachment, that I may write to him without delay.

Lucknow, I have the honour, &c.
22d August 1782. (Signed) Rd JOHNSON,
Acting Resident.

 P. S. Some

P. S. Some troubles near Juanpore have alſo obliged me to avail myſelf of your permiſſion, regarding the officer commanding the ſtation there.

R. J.

Extract of Bengal Secret Conſultations, 23d September 1782.

THE following inſtructions to Colonel Sir John Cumming having been written and approved, were ſigned on the 17th inſtant, and ſent him; they were alſo ſent to the Commander in Chief.

To Colonel Sir John Cumming.

Sir,

Having appointed you to take the command of a detachment, conſiſting of five regiments of ſepoys, and one company, which has been ordered to march to Furruckabad for the protection of that part of the Vizier's dominions in which diſturbances have lately ariſen, we direct you to join the ſaid detachment with all expedition, to take the command, and proceed with it accordingly.

In this ſervice it is our intention that you ſhall be ſubject to the orders of the Vizier, which will be ſignified to you through the channel of the Reſident at his Court, for the performance of any military operations which he may require of you within the boundaries of his dominions, either for the protection of the country, or for quelling any internal commotions, to which the ſtation of your troops may be the moſt contiguous or convnient; but on all ſuch occaſions you will have the precaution to receive from him the requiſition in writing, ſpecifying the ſervice to be performed, if there be ſufficient time for that purpoſe, without endangering the ſafety or peace of the country; and in the execution of ſuch ſervice you will be the judge of what force it may be neceſſary to employ, and will appoint and order it accordingly; but we earneſtly and ſpecially recommend to you not to make any detachments from your troops which cannot be inſtantly recalled, and with which a junction might be at any time precarious or difficult; but the performance of any diſtant or conſiderable operations, you will march with your whole force to effect them.

You will keep the Commander in Chief conſtantly adviſed of your proceedings; and if any material occurrence ſhould take place, which you deem worthy of our immediate information, you will not fail to adviſe us of them in the moſt expeditious manner.

Encloſed we tranſmit you copy of our correſpondence with the Commander in Chief, relative to the ſervice and appointment of your corps; and at preſent we have only further

Digitized by Google

further to enjoin you, which we do in the ſtrongeſt manner, to ſhew every attention to the authority of the Vizier; to cultivate a good underſtanding with him; and to pay the ſtricteſt regard to the order and diſcipline of the officers and men under your command, to prevent all cauſe of complaint of them, either from the Vizier himſelf, or the inhabitants of the country, which they may paſs through or be ſtationed in.

Orders have been iſſued to the Chief at Patna, to iſſue one month's pay immediately to the detachment, and the Reſident at Benares has been directed to provide the amount of two months pay to be advanced on their arrival at that place.

Fort William, We are, &c.
17 September 1782.

Extract of Bengal Secret Conſultations, the 26th Sept. 1782.

READ the following letters from General Stibbert.

Gentlemen,

By the accompanying extract of a letter to me from Colonel Morgan, you will be informed that a regiment of ſepoys, belonging to the Cawnpore ſtation, has been ordered to Furruckabad, to the aſſiſtance of the Sezawal. The Colonel, in a former letter to me, mentioned, that previous to any requiſition having been made to him, he had been acquainted by Major Scott, on detachment with his regiment, that he had received orders from his Excellency the Vizier, through the Reſident, to march for the above ſervice, ſo that the ſame force, viz. three regiments, is at Cawnpore, as before this movement was made.

I have to inform the Board, that by a letter which I received from Lieut. Colonel Ahmuty, commanding at Dinapore, I am acquainted that the Artillery Company, which is to form a part of Colonel Sir John Cumming's detachment, was to embark on board of boats, and ſet out, with ordnance and ſtores, for Benares, on the 16th inſtant, and that the regiments of ſepoys were preparing to march for the ſame place; and they would, I ſuppoſe, leave the cantonments about the 20th, as they only waited for the camp equipage going up with the ſtore boats, which had left Monghyre ſix days, and were daily expected.

Fort William, I have the houour to be, &c.
23d Sept. 1782. (Signed) GILES STIBBERT.

Extract of a letter from Colonel Morgan to Major General Stibbert, Commander in Chief, dated 8th Sept. 1782.

" I have the honour to inform, that I received to-
" day public requiſitions for a regiment of ſepoys to go up
" to

"to Furruckabad, in order to suppor the Sezawal, who "has been lately appointed by his Excellency the Nabob "Vizier to go and demand the tribute due from the Nabob "of Furruckabad."

A true Extract. (Signed) WM. SCOTT, Secry.

Received the following letters from Mr. Middleton.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

The contentions and party disputes which have prevailed at the Court of Delhy, since the death of the late Nabob Nudjiff Cawn, seem now to be taking a decided turn in favour of Mirza Shuffee Cawn, whose pretensions to the chief rule in the administration, although acknowledged and secretly espoused by the King, have hitherto met with violent and successful opposition from Afrasaib Cawn; but the latter having a few days ago found it expedient to move with the main body of his army across the Jumma, for the defence of his own possessions, against the threatened attacks of Mahomed Beg Cawn Amdâny, who is joined by the opposite party, Mirza Shuffee Cawn availed himself of this conjuncture, to attempt by force the effectual establishment of his authority at the capital. Accordingly, on the 11th instant, he marched his whole army into the town, seized upon the principal gates and avenues, surrounded the houses of Mudjud ul Dowlah, the Dewan, Nudjiff Cooley Cawn, and Lutafaut Ally Cawn, all of whom were united in the combination against him, and secured the person of the former, as he has also probably, by this time, that of Nudjiff Cooley, Cawn, who had, when my last intelligence was dispatched, lost all his artillery, several of his principal Sirdars, and was reduced, as a last resource, to the necessity of defending himself with musquetry only, within the walls of his private habitation. The capture of his person will leave Mirza Shuffee Cawn without any competitor upon the spot capable of opposing him, and enable him immediately to turn his whole force, in conjunction with Mahomed Beg Khân, against Afrasaib and his party, with the fairest prospect of success.

There can, I apprehend, be no doubt but his Majesty, upon this turn of affairs, will chearfully and openly acquiesce in the demands of Mirza Shuffee Cawn, which it appears have never extended beyond the investiture of such offices as he is universally allowed to have had indisputable claim to, upon the death of Nudjiff Cawn; and as he is a person attached, both from ties of consanguinity and inclination, to the Vizier's Government, as well as the first in rank, and credit among the remaining Chiefs of the empire, I presume the Honourable Board will consider his rising influence as a favourable incident to the political interest of the

Digitized by Google

the Company, being well assured that the smallest encouragement given to this Chief, were it to consist only in an acknowledgment of his title to the ascendancy he has acquired, with the bare name of our support, would secure his attachment to the mutual interests of our own and the Vizier's government; and render him not only a powerful barrier to these provinces, but a most useful partizan, should motives of necessity or expedience at any future period induce your Honourable Board to extend your views beyond the limits to which they are at present confined.

Lucknow, 14 Sept. 1782.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON,
Resident at the Court of the Vizier.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I had the honour to inform you yesterday of the state of affairs at Delhi; since which I have received intelligence of the surrender of Nudjiff Cooley Cawn, and the probability of a speedy settlement of the government under the administration of Mirza Shuffee Cawn.

Lucknow, 15th Sept. 1782.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.
Resident at the Court of the Vizier.

Mr. John Bristow having been appointed, in the public department consultation of the 23d instant, resident at the Nabob Vizier's Court, the Secretary, in conformity to the orders of the Board, prepared instructions for him, which he circulated for approval. The same having been approved, they were signed, and dispatched to Mr. Bristow; and are as follows:

To Mr. John Bristow.

Sir,

Having appointed you to the station of Resident at the Court of the Vizier Asoph ul Dowlah, we direct that you repair immediately to Lucknow, and there take charge of your department, with all the treasure, accounts, papers, documents, and dependencies, of whatsoever nature, belonging to it, and which Mr. Nathaniel Middleton, the late Resident, has been ordered to deliver up to you.

We think it necessary to enjoin you, in the most positive manner, to shew every possible deference and respect to the Vizier and his family; upon all occasions to endeavour to secure his attachment, and to cultivate the strictest harmony and friendship with his government; taking every opportunity to impress him with a conviction, that his interests are inseparable from the terms and objects of our alliance with him.

A copy

Digitized by Google

A copy of the late treaty concluded by the Governor General with the Vizier at Chunar is enclosed for your information. You will make this the foundation for such claims as the company have consequently upon him; and in all things which depend upon you, and which the present situation of affairs may admit, you are to act up to the true spirit and meaning of the said treaty.

We give for your information copy of a letter written to Mr. Middleton on the 11th July last, with some accounts enclosed therein, shewing the state of the Vizier's debts to the Company on the 30th of April 1782, together with a copy of Mr. Middleton's reply, and of a letter and accounts since received from him, under date the 12th instant.

We have not signified our approbation of the list upon which Mr. Middleton intended to claim assignments from the Vizier for the ensuing year, wishing rather to leave the conclusion of this business to your management; but we desire that you will take the most effectual steps for securing the speedy and entire liquidation of all that may remain due to the Company on any account whatsoever. Any just counter claims which the Vizier may be able to establish will of course be admitted: that which he has made for horses, guns, and small arms, &c. supplied the troops at Futtyghur and Daranagur, has in part been complied with, by the estimation at which his horses were received for the Company's use. The arms and military stores belonging to him should likewise be appraised from the time when those troops were struck off from his establishment, and the amount ought to be charged to the Company.

You will of course give every attention in your power to the security and internal peace of the Vizier's dominions, and the happiness of his subjects in general; and we direct you to communicate with us fully and freely upon these points.

A detachment consisting of one company of European artillery, and five regiments of Sepoys, under the command of Colonel Sir John Cummings, has been ordered to march from Dinapore into the Vizier's dominions, to quell certain disturbances which we understood, from private authority, had arisen in the North-west frontier, and to secure the peace of those parts. We enclose a copy of the instructions which we have given to Sir John Cummings for your information. In case the necessity of the state should ever make it requisite for the Vizier to apply for the military aid, you will signify the same to the commanding officer of the Company's troops, whose situation may render it most eligible for him to perform the service required, stating the nature of it particularly to him, and leaving it ultimately

Digitized by Google

ultimately to his judgment to employ ſuch force as he may deem adequate to the occaſion.

Fort William, We are, &c.
23d Sep. 1782.
Agreed. (Signed) EDW. WHELER,
J. MACPHERSON.

Extract of Bengal Secret Conſultations, the 30th September 1782.

RECEIVED the following letter from Mr. Middleton.

James Peter Auriol, Eſquire.

Sir,

I HAVE received the honour of your letter of the 23d May, applying to me for that part of the agreement entered into at Chunar, bearing the ſignature of the Honourable the Governor General; in reply to which I muſt beg leave to inform you, that it was given to the Nabob Vizier at Chunar, and lodged in his office as a public record. Conceiving your requiſition may have been made through ſome miſapprehenſion, I have deferred an application on the ſubject to his Excellency until I may be favoured with your further inſtructions.

I am, Sir, &c.
Lucknow, (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON,
16th Sep. 1782. Reſident at the Court of the Vizier.

The Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, &c. &c. &c.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I HAVE the honour to incloſe you a copy of a letter I have received from his Excellency the Nabob Vizier, upon which I requeſt to be favoured with your commands.

Lucknow, I have the honour to be, &c. &c.
16th Sep. 1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON,
Reſident at the Court of the Vizier.

Tranſlation of a Shocka from the Vizier to Mr. Middleton.

I HAD formerly ſettled a plan for Colonel Morgan to march with the brigade from Cawnpore to the frontiers of Etaya, and there encamp; the rains prevented him: now the rains are at end, it is adviſeable and proper that Colonel Morgan ſhould march.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Conformably to the ſpirit of the inſtructions given to me for my guidance by the Honourable the Gover-

nor

Digitized by Google

nor General upon the conclusion of his agreement with the Nabob Vizier at Chunar, I have the honour to inform you, that, with his Excellency's concurrence, I have stationed in each Aumildary throughout these provinces an agent of my own nomination, in the capacity of Derroga Tasseah, or Muster Master to the Mooteyana troops, whose duty it is to muster and transmit to my office regular monthly returns of those establishments, and upon whose report and signature alone their pay is to be issued: this measure will establish a necessary check upon the conduct of the Aumils, and effectually obviate those abuses and misapplications consequent on the former irregular mode of conducting this branch of expence. I could not, with propriety, have taken so decisive a line in this business at an earlier period, as the Nabob and Ministers returning to the capital so late as the month of October, found themselves obliged to continue the Aumils already in employ in their respective trusts, on risk, by new appointments at that advanced season, the loss of the whole collections on the Kereef or first crop, which amounts to 2-5ths of the annual revenue; and the same circumstance involved the necessity of leaving their agreements nearly in the *same* form in which they stood the preceding year. Hence it became difficult and dangerous to take any immediate steps for the introduction of the Governor General's arrangements, beyond laying the foundation of a future reform, which was duly attended to; and these I can now securely build upon; as, by availing myself of this early period, every Aumil is previously advised of the terms on which he embarks, and left without excuse for any failure in his engagements. I shall have the satisfaction of laying before you very shortly as correct a return of the troops actually employed as it may be possible to make, after curtailing their numbers every where, as far as can be done consistently with the security of the collections; and out of the savings which I am confident of immediately producing, I have stipulated with the Minister for the maintenance of four complete regiments of the Honourable Company's troops, at the rate of 2,500 rupees each per month, as established by the Chunar treaty: should this measure meet your approbation, and it be suitable to your views to enlarge the plan, I have no doubt of being able, by degrees, to introduce as many more regiments as you may wish to have employed in lieu of the Government troops now maintained for this service.

I have the further satisfaction to inform your Honourable Board, that I have at length prevailed upon the Nabob Vizier to carry into effectual execution the measure recommended by the Honourable the Governor General for the institution of courts of Adawlut, under proper regulations, throughout

Digitized by Google

throughout his dominions. Molovy Mowbean, a very reputable, distinguished, and learned man of the law, has been appointed Sudder ul Huck; and a deputy on his behalf is going out into each district, with a proper and complete establishment for the due administration of justice, independantly of the Foujedars and collectors;—this measure will also, I flatter myself, meet with your approbation.

It is incumbent upon me to inform you of the proper conduct of Fayzula Cawn, who for some time past has been carrying on a constant correspondence with the other Rohilla Chiefs, and maintains discourses in his public Durbar of a very contrary tendency to the line of his duty, and professed allegiance to the Vizier.

It is not very likely he would be able to effect any thing, that could materially endanger the provinces; yet it must be observed, that any attempt, however unsuccessful to himself, would to a certainty occasion a very heavy loss in the Vizier's collections. An advantage gained by his troops, in a late unfortunate dispute with two of the Vizier's battalions at Daranaghur, has had the natural effect of exciting insolence and temerity, and makes it not very easy for that Chief, were he so inclined, to repress the turbulent spirit of his followers.

By the 3d article of the treaty concluded between the Honourable the Governor General and the Vizier, at Chunar, his Excellency is empowered to place Fayzula Cawn upon the same footing with the other Jagheerdars, giving him his allowances in money instead of lands; but the Honourable the Governor General, though acceding to the Nabob's proposal, deeming it inadviseable that the measure should be attempted in the then situation of this Government, and during the active scene which occupied the Company's troops, I in consequence prevailed upon the Nabob to suspend it until a more convenient opportunity might offer; these objections to the measure being now, I conceive, removed, and this being the only Jagheer existing under the Vizier's government, I would, if the Honourable Board are pleased to approve, venture to advise the resumption of it as soon as the cessation of the rains will permit; for this it would be necessary that the Nabob should obtain not only your previous sanction, but an assurance of your support, in case (which I think very probable) his own strength should be found unequal to the undertaking.

The possessions of Fayzula Cawn are so situated that there is no possibility of cutting off his retreat whenever he might chuse to attempt it; and should it ever so happen, the great extra collections he has for some years made, beyond the amount for which the Jagheer was originally granted, now supposed

Digitized by Google

ſuppoſed to be accumulated to one Crore and half rupees, muſt prove a total and irreparable loſs to this country. It ſeems therefore worthy the attention of your Honourable Board to co-operate with the Vizier in ſuch meaſures as may be moſt effectual in obviating the miſchiefs which his Excellency juſtly apprehends from leaving Fyzula Cawn in his preſent unreſtricted ſituation, eſpecially as the propoſed change cannot, in my conception, be conſidered as any actual innovation on the rights of that Chief's treaty with the late Vizier, which ſecure to him an actual income of 15 lacks; and this the Nabob by no means deſigns to deprive him of, but wiſhes to pay it in money, inſtead of allowing him to collect above thrice that ſum from lands, by means which drain the other parts of Rohilchund of their reiots and revenues, and enable him to maintain a large force ready upon all occaſions to join any internal or foreign enemy which might riſe up in oppoſition to his Excellency's government; and there can be no doubt but Zabitta Cawn, with whom he is cloſely connected, and keeps up a conſtant intercourſe, would ſeize any opening which might yield him the fainteſt hopes of recovering his hereditary poſſeſſions in Rohilchund.

I have incloſed an addreſs from the Nabob Vizier to the Honourable the Governor General on this ſubject, and am, with the higheſt reſpect,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs, &c.

Lucknow, 17th Sep. 1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON, Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I HAVE been this day honoured with the receipt of your letter of the 7th inſtant, and having inſtantly ſignified your commands to Mr. Johnſon, now tranſmit you a copy of his reply.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

Lucknow, 18th Sep. 1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON, Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

To Mr. Richard Johnſon.

Sir,

I HEREWITH incloſe you copy of a letter which I have juſt received from the Honourable the Governor General and Council, informing me of their commands for your immediate return to the preſidency, to which, as directed, I hereby require your obedience.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

Lucknow, 18th Sep. 1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON, Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

Mr.

Digitized by Google

Mr. Nathaniel Middleton.

Sir,

I AM honoured with your commands of this date, and ſhall, in obedience thereto, leave this place for the preſidency the day after to-morrow.

I have the honour to be,

Lucknow, &c. &c.

18th Sept. 1782. (Signed) RD. JOHNSON.

True Copies.

(Signed) Nath. Middleton,

Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

YOU will have been informed, by my addreſſes of the 14th and 15th inſtant, of the late occurrences at Delhi, and of my ſentiments as to the probable iſſue of them, which ſtand confirmed by intelligence this day received of his Majeſty's having conferred upon Mirza Shuffee Cawn the office of Meer Buckſey, with all the other employments held by the late Nabob Nudjif Cawn.

This meaſure appears to have yielded univerſal ſatisfaction to all ranks of people, excepting thoſe few immediately attached to Affraſaib Cawn, and, for the reaſons aſſigned in in my firſt addreſs on this ſubject, may, I flatter myſelf, prove acceptable to your honourable board, in which caſe I would humbly preſume to recommend a letter of congratulation from the honourable the Governor General to Mirza Shuffee Cawn on his advancement.

We hourly expect the news of an action between the forces of Afraſaib Cawn and Mahomed Beg Amdâny, unleſs the rapid and complete ſucceſs of Mirza Shuffee Cawn at Delhi ſhould induce the former to ſubmiſſion,

Lucknow, I have the honour to be, &c.

19th Sep. 1782.

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

Read the following Letter from Mr. Richard Johnſon;

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I AM this moment honoured with your commands of the 7th inſtant, and I ſhall in obedience thereto leave this place the day after to-morrow, and hope to be at the preſidency nearly as ſoon as this addreſs.

Lucknow, I have the honour to be, &c.

18th Sep. 1782. R. JOHNSON.

Reſolved that the following Letter be written to Colonel Morgan:

Sir,

Digitized by Google

Sir,

WE have just received intimation from the Resident at the Vizier's Court, that his Excellency has written him a letter expressive of his desire that your brigade should march immediately to Etaya. As we have appointed a separate force, under the command of Colonel Sir John Cumming, to march from Dinapore for the protection of that part of the Vizier's dominions; and as his Excellency could not have been acquainted with this measure at the time of his making the above requisition, we direct that you remain in your present station at Cawnpore: if the Vizier's desires should be notified to you, you will urge that reason for your non-compliance, as we apprehend that the removal of your force from Cawnpore at this time might be attended with prejudicial effects.

Fort William, We are, &c.
30th Sep. 1782.

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 14*th October* 1782.

READ a letter, as follows, from the Commander in Chief.

Gentlemen,

IN consequence of the disapprobation you were some time ago pleased to express at my being unable to furnish you with information relative to some occurrences that had passed in the Upper Provinces, I wrote to Colonel Morgan, the commanding officer in the field, requiring from him his reasons for having omitted to communicate to me regular accounts of the transactions in that part of the country; and I now beg leave to lay before you copies of my letter to him, and of his answer on the occasion.

Fort William, I have the honour to be, &c.
13th October 1782. (Signed) G. STIBBERT.

To Colonel James Morgan, commanding the 2d brigade.

Sir,

THE board having yesterday taken into consideration the measures necessary to be pursued for the immediate security of the Vizier's dominions, desired I would communicate to them such intelligence as I had received from you, respecting the defection of Almass Ali Khân, the affray in Rohilcund between the Nabob's battalions and the Rohillah horse stationed in that district, and the consequent commotions in the country; but from your having been silent on these points, I was unable to give them the information they required, at which the members expressed their surprize, and

also

alſo their diſſatisfaction, at the commanding officer in the field having omitted to adviſe the commander in chief of ſuch important occurrences.

That I may have it in my power to ſatisfy the board, I muſt requeſt, Sir, that you would furniſh me with ſuch accounts of the above tranſactions as have come to your knowledge; and alſo inform me, whether any bodies of the Vizier's ſubjects are in arms to oppoſe his government, or if any invaſions are to be apprehended from foreign enemies; particularly if Rohilcund is threatened with any immediate danger, either by an inſurrection of the native inhabitants, or the incurſions of the Seiks, in confederacy with Zabita Khan.

In order that you may be in force, and prepared to repel any attacks from abroad, or quell any internal commotions, I have to recommend, that you call in all your detachments, except the regiment at Lucknow, as far as can be done conſiſtently with the tranquillity of the diſtricts where they are on command; and that you hereafter keep the troops belonging to your ſtation as much as poſſible collected. When you are under the neceſſity of ordering out detachments, either upon the requiſition of the Nabob, or otherwiſe, you will be pleaſed to give me immediate information thereof, as well as of the ſervices they are ſent upon.

I have to acquaint you, that a detachment of five regiments of Sepoys, and a company of artillery, is ordered to march from Dinapore, under the command of Colonel Sir John Cumming, for the additional ſecurity of his Excellency's dominions, and to take up the former ſtation of Furruckabad.

Fort William, (Signed) G. STIBBERT.
the 18th Sep. 1782.

A true Copy.

To Major General Giles Stibbert, Commander in Chief, &c.

Sir,

I AM honoured with your letter of the 18th ultimo, and in conſequence beg leave to aſſure you, that the intelligence which I have received of the defection of Almaſs Ali Khân, and of the affray that happened between the Rohillah horſe and the Nabob Vizier's battalions at Daranaghur, never made them appear to me as occurrences of any importance, as they could not in their conſequences affect the peace of the country ſo far as to render the aſſiſtance of our troops neceſſary for the preſervation of it. But had I had reaſon to think them of moment enough, I ſhould

Digitized by Google

not have omitted communicating them to you, as I am aware that I ſhould lay myſelf open to cenſure by ſuch an omiſſion.

With reſpect to the defection of Almaſs Ali Khân, the reports and accounts of it varied ſo often, that had I wrote to you intelligence of it one day, I muſt have been under the neceſſity of contradicting it the next perhaps, and at laſt ſhould have had to inform you of his having been re-appointed collector of the diſtricts he formerly had the collection of, and of his being returned to his cantonment near Etawa, where he now is, and buſily employed in ſettling the country, and yeſterday I received a letter from him, intimating his intention of coming to pay me a viſit here ere long. On the above occaſion, as well as that of the diſpute at Daranagur, had there been any call for the aſſiſtance of the Company's troops, I ſhould of courſe have been applied to by the Vizier, through the Reſident, and ſhould have given you information of it immediately, as I have always done of all detachments that have been ordered away from this ſtation. The affray betwixt the Rohillah horſe and the Vizier's battalions at Daranagur aroſe, as I learn, from a ſquabble that happened betwixt two of them, about the purchaſing of ſomething in the Buzar; from words they came to drawn ſwords, and calling to their comrades for ſupport, the parties that were engaged became ſoon increaſed, and at laſt they referred the deciſion to a general engagement; the Rohillah horſe making a charge upon the battalions, were received by a volley from them, and the fire of their guns; but the execution of the fire was ſo ſmall, that it did not check the horſe, who broke the battalions, and cut them off to a man.

I am lately given to underſtand, that the arms and guns belonging to thoſe Battalions have been delivered up, upon the Vizier's demand, to the Aumil of Rohilcund; and that there did not ſeem to be any ſpirit of rebellion in the people of Rohilcund, nor are they making any preparations to oppoſe the Nabob's authority.

I do not learn, that the Seiks have any deſign of invading Rohilcund in a formal manner, though Zabta Khân is always carrying on a correſpondence with them to that end. But I have received accounts very lately of one of Zabta Khân's ſons going to Fyzoola Khan at Rampore, who is now entertaining troops in his own country, and encreaſing their number greatly above what he uſually kept up. His intentions I am not yet acquainted with, but expect to hear about them very ſoon, though I am not inclined to believe he intends to make a rupture with the Vizier; and now that Mirza Shuffey Khân has ſucceeded to the titles, offices, and power, poſſeſſed by the late Nudjiff Cawn, I am ready to believe,

Digitized by Google

believe, that the Seiks will not make any irruptions into the Vizier's territories, as he is amicably inclined to the Vizier, and the Seiks are kept in awe by him. Whenever I ſhall receive any intelligence that can tend to throw a light upon the political meaſures and actions of the neighbouring powers, as they may reſpect the intereſt of his Excellency the Vizier, or the ſecurity and peace of his dominions, I ſhall doubtleſs communicate it to you immediately.

I have ever been deſirous of keeping the troops under my command collected as much as poſſible, and the detachments that have been ſent from this ſtation have gone away upon the requiſitions of the Nabob Vizier, and the repreſentations of the Reſident, of ſuch troops being abſolutely neceſſary to preſerve the tranquility of that part of the country where they have been ſent to, and to quell the commotions that then exiſted there; and I have not failed to ſend you immediate information whenever ſuch detachments have been ordered, and what the nature of the ſervice was which they were ſent upon. I ſhall write to the Reſident at the Vizier's court, to know if I may recall Major Gilpin's regiment from Fyzabad, now that there are no diſturbances or commotions in the neighbourhood of that place; though I have had accounts lately of Rajah Bulbudder Sing having returned with a great many followers into the diſtrict of Sahlone, where a battalion of Major Lumſdaine's regiment is ſtationed, and that he is laying waſte and plundering the country there; and as I preſume that upon the arrival of the detachment under Colonel Sir John Cumming, at Futty Ghur, there will be no further call for the ſervice of Major Scott's regiment at Furruckabad, I ſhall then order him to return to this ſtation; or, ſhould the Reſident ſignify to me that there is no occaſion for its remaining there, I ſhall order it to march here before that event.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) JAMES MORGAN,
Colonel commanding 2d brigade.

Camp, near Cawnpore,
1ſt October 1782.

Extract of Bengal Secret Conſultations, the 21ſt October 1782.

READ the letter from Mr. Middleton, dated the 17th September, and recorded in conſultation the 30th September 1782.

Upon the above letter the Board think it neceſſary to remark, that it appears to them extraordinary, that Mr. Middleton

Digitized by Google

Middleton ſhould have delayed to this time carrying into execution the orders which he received from the Governor General in September 1781; alledging, as a reaſon for it, the Nabob's return to his capital ſo late as the month of October laſt year. If that period was too late for attempting to carry the meaſure into effect that ſeaſon, and the time which has ſince paſſed ſuffered to elapſe without doing it, ſurely no great advantage could be gained by undertaking it this ſeaſon, on the 17th of September, which is very few days earlier than he had it in his power to ſet about it laſt year.

With reſpect to Mr. Middleton's propoſal for reſtraining the power of the Nabob Fyzula Cawn, the Board cannot help thinking it highly indiſcreet and ill-timed. It is well known that the Nabob's country has lately been expoſed to inſurrections and tumults, and is far from being recovered from the confuſion occaſioned by them; that the Company's forces intended for its protection have been diſperſed into various parts to quell the diſturbances, and could not be immediately collected, without endangering the peace of the country; and that the Vizier's troops are inſufficient of themſelves for ſuch a ſervice; yet, without giving us any account of the real ſtate of the country, Mr. Middleton propoſes an expedition, which in a time of perfect tranquility, and with our troops collected and prepared, muſt be attended with difficulty, and ought not to be undertaken without an abſolute neceſſity. At preſent the Board do not admit of any neceſſity for ſuch an attempt; nor, in the circumſtances which exiſt, would it be by any means prudent to think of it.

Reſolved, That the following letter be written to Mr. Briſtow:

Sir,

WE think it neceſſary to ſend you the encloſed copy of a letter which we have received from Mr. Middleton, under date the 17th ultimo.

It appears extraordinary to us, that Mr. Middleton ſhould at this time propoſe an expedition to be undertaken againſt Fyzoola Cawn, ſupported, as he confeſſes he is, by Zabetti Cawn, and the other chiefs of the Rohillahs, without taking the leaſt notice, in any of his letters, of the actual ſtate of the Vizier's dominions; although we underſtand, from private information, that at the time when this was written, Almaſs Ali Cawn had withdrawn himſelf from the Vizier's authority, and the country was otherwiſe in great confuſion, if not open rebellion.

If

If Mr. Middleton has taken any meaſures for carrying into effect the plan which he recommends, for reſtraining the power of Fyzoola Cawn, we deſire that you will immediately countermand or put a ſtop to the execution of them.

We alſo deſire to receive your ſentiments upon the different parts of the encloſed letter, before we give you any further orders reſpecting them; in the mean while you will alſo ſuſpend the execution of theſe points.

Fort William, We are, &c.
21ſt October 1782.

Read a letter, and encloſure, as follows, from Major General Stibbert:

Gentlemen,

I beg leave, for the information of the Board, to lay before you the accompanying extract of a letter from Major Landey, commanding a detachment on its march from Dinapore into the Vizier's dominions.

The Board will ſee that the artillery and ſtores, agreeable to inſtructions given by me for that purpoſe, were ordered on to Allahabad; and as the Sepoy regiments were to proceed in a few days after the date of the above letter, the whole detachment muſt, I conceive, have aſſembled at that place about the middle of this month.

I have the honour, &c.
Fort William, (Signed) G. STIBBERT.
18th October 1782.

Extract of a Letter from Major J. Landey to the Commander in Chief; dated Benares, 9th October 1782.

YOUR favour of the 23d ultimo I have had the pleaſure to receive, and have the honour to acquaint you, that the detachment under my command arrived here on the 7th inſtant; but the troops being three months in arrears, and greatly diſtreſſed, have been under the neceſſity of halting, to get them paid, which I hope will not detain us above three days longer, as Mr. Markham informs me he has ſufficient money ready in his treaſury to pay the detachment all their arrears.

As ſoon as the troops are paid, ſhall march to Allahabad, where Colonel Sir John Cummings intends joining the detachment. Captain Sampſon, with the 7th Company of artillery, the ordnance, and ordnance ſtores, I have directed (agreeable to your orders) to proceed by

Digitized by Google

water to Allahabad, and to wait there for the arrival of the remainder of the detachment.

A true extract.

W. SCOTT, Secretary.

Read the following letter from Colonel Sir John Cummings.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs.

This morning, on my arrival at Dinapore, I had the honour to receive your commands, under date 17th September, together with a copy of your correspondence with the commander in chief, relative to the appointment of the corps, and the service it is to be employed on; and also, the copy of a letter you were pleased to address to Colonel Morgan, under date the 30th September.

I have wrote to the officer commanding the detachment, to proceed immediately towards Furruckabad, at the same time cautioning him against detaching any part of the troops, except on the most urgent necessity, and at the requisition of the Vizier, and even then to a small distance only.

I hope to join the detachment in a few days, and shall instantly proceed by Dauch for that purpose.

I have enclosed the Resident a copy of some part of the instructions I have been honoured with from your Honourable Board, in order that he may make no requisition for detachments but when indispensably necessary.

I have informed the commander in chief of my having directed Major Landey to proceed with the detachment towards Furruckabad.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Dinapore, (Signed) JOHN CUMMINGS.
13th Oct. 1782.

Extract of Bengal General Consultations, the 24th October 1782.

THE Secretary acquaints the Board, that he received the following letter and papers from the Governor General, on Tuesday, and immediately wrote to Mr. Johnson, desiring a full explanation of this transaction, in the manner desired.

Sir,

I have sent you a letter from Mr. Middleton, with twelve bills of exchange enclosed, amounting to 21,50,000 Haulee sicca rupees; but before their presentments for acceptance, I desire you will call upon Mr. Johnson, who, I understand, conducted this transaction, to explain the na-

ture

Digitized by Google

ture of it, in what manner, and on what account, the money was received for which these bills were granted, and in what manner, and on what condition, the bills were granted.

I am, &c.

Calcutta, (Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.
22d Oct. 1782.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Inclosed I have the pleasure to remit you an account of the Honourable Company's bills of exchange on Calcutta, to the amount of L. H. S. 21,50,000.

I have, &c.

Lucknow, (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.
20th Sep. 1782.

Ordered, That for the present the bills be kept by the Secretary.

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, 24th October 1782.

THE Governor General sends his private Secretary with the following minute to the Board.

The Governor General now submits to the perusal and correction of the Members of the Board the instructions which he has prepared for Mr. Bristow; desiring that it may be minuted in this place, but that the instructions themselves may be withheld from the consultations, at least for some time, as they consist of a great variety of subjects requiring the most profound secrecy.

Fort William,
23d October 1782.

The Board approving the Governor General's proposed instructions, ordered they be copied fair, and dispatched.

Resolved, that the draft of these instructions be not for the present entered on record; but left in the Governor General's possession until a future period.

The Governor General also sends in the following minute.

The Governor General lays before the Board a disposition, delivered to him by General Stibbert, of the detachments which have been made at the requisition of the Resident at Lucknow, or his deputy, from the military stations of Cawnpore and Chunar. He earnestly recommends, that instant and positive orders may be sent to the commanding officers of those stations, and to the Resident, to the following effect:

1st. To the commanding officers of those stations—That they issue orders to all the officers who have been sent on detachments in consequence of requisitions made by the Resident, or his deputy, at the court of the Nabob of Oude,

Digitized by Google

Oude, that within twenty-four hours after they ſhall have received a notification in writing from the preſent Reſident, Mr. Briſtow, that the ſervices of the troops under their command are no longer required for the purpoſes for which they were detached, they ſhall ſeverally return forthwith to rejoin their reſpective corps: that if at any time hereafter they ſhall receive a requiſition in writing, for the detachment of any part of the troops under their command, for the internal protection of any part of the Nabob Vizier's dominions, they do, according to former orders, comply with ſuch requiſition, and inſtantly report the ſame to the Board, and to the Commander in Chief.

2dly. To the Reſident—That he may make it one of the firſt objects of his enquiry, whether the troops which have been detached from the ſtations of Cawnpore and Chunar, at the requiſition of the late Reſident, or his deputy, for internal defence or other ſervice of the Nabob's dominions, are abſolutely and indiſpenſably neceſſary for thoſe purpoſes; and that as ſoon as it ſhall appear to him that theſe, or any part of theſe detachments may be removed, without very material prejudice to the Nabob's affairs, he do ſend a notification in writing ſeverally, to each of the officers commanding them, that their ſervices are no longer required, a correſpondent order being ſent to the officers of the ſtations at Cawnpore and Chunar, to command the inſtant return of every detachment within twenty-four hours after the receipt of every ſuch notification.

That if at any time hereafter the Nabob ſhall require any extraordinary aid for the internal defence of his dominions, the Reſident do addreſs the commanding officer of the neareſt ſtation within the province of Bahar, requiring ſuch aſſiſtance to be immediately ſent; but if the occaſion ſhall be ſo ſudden and urgent as not to admit of the delay of ſo diſtant an application, he do in that caſe make a ſimilar requiſition to the commanding officer at Chunar; or, finally (but not without the moſt preſſing, moſt abſolute, and moſt evident neceſſity) to the commanding officer at Cawnpore, or the frontier ſtation, wherever it may be, of the Nabob Vizier's dominions: that on every ſuch occaſion the Reſident do firſt receive a requiſition in writing from the Nabob for ſuch aid, and that he do tranſmit inſtant advice of it to the board, not waiting for the detail of the reaſons which have urged the Nabob to require ſuch extraordinary aid, or him to comply with the requiſition; but that theſe, to prevent delays, may be communicated to the Board at his firſt leiſure afterwards.

Digitized by Google

Disposition of the forces in the province of Oude, and district of Benares, 23d October 1782.

Cawnpoor—Under Colonel Morgan's command.			
	2d European regiment		
	8th company European artillery		
	8th and 34th regiments of Sepoys		
Furruckabad	3d	ditto	ditto
Lucknow	5th	ditto	ditto
Fyzabad	20th	ditto	ditto
Kyrabad	31st	ditto	ditto
Chunar—Under Colonel Blair's command.			
	1 company European invalids		
	1 company rangers		
	1 company Gollandaaz		
	6th regiment of Sepoys		
	30th	ditto	ditto
Allahabad	1st battalion 7th regiment of Sepoys		
Burragong	2d	ditto	ditto
Sahloan	1st	ditto 29th	ditto
Joanpoor	2d	ditto	ditto
On their march to Furruckabad—Under Colonel Sir John Cummings's command.			
	7th company European artillery		
	9th regiment of Sepoys		
	10th	ditto	ditto
	11th	ditto	ditto
	21st	ditto	ditto
	22d	ditto	ditto

N. B. Part of the 20th regiment has lately, by order of the Resident at Lucknow, marched from Fyzabad to Sahloan, to assist the 1st battalion of the 29th regiment on detachments there, in suppressing the insurrections raised in that part of the country by Belbudder Sing.

Resolved, That the following letters be written to Colonels Morgan and Blaire.

To Colonel James Morgan, commanding the 2d brigade, Cawnpoor.

Sir,

Understanding that detachments have been sent from your station into different parts of the Vizier's dominions, in consequence of requisitions made to you for that purpose, by Mr. Middleton, the late Resident at the Vizier's court, or his deputy, we desire that you will immediately issue orders to all the officers who have been sent on detachments as above mentioned, requiring that, within twenty-four hours

hours after they ſhall receive a notification in writing from Mr. Briſtow, the preſent Reſident, that the ſervices of the troops under their command are no longer required for the purpoſes for which they are detached, they ſhall ſeverally return forthwith to rejoin their reſpective corps; and and if at any time hereafter you ſhall receive a requiſition in writing for the detachment of any part of the troops under your command, to march for the internal protection of any part of the Vizier's dominions, you will, according to former orders, comply with ſuch requiſition, and inſtantly report the ſame, both to us and to the commander in chief.

Fort William, We are, &c.
24th Oct. 1782.

The ſame, to Colonel William Blaire, commanding at Chunar.

Reſolved, That the following letter be written to Mr. Briſtow.

To Mr. John Briſtow, Reſident at the Vizier's court.

Sir,

We deſire that you will make it an immediate object of your enquiry to aſcertain, whether the troops which have been detached from the ſtations at Cawnpoor and Chunar, at the requiſition of the late Reſident or his deputy, for internal defence or other ſervice in the Vizier's dominions, are abſolutely and indiſpenſably neceſſary for thoſe purpoſes; and as ſoon as it ſhall appear to you that theſe detachments, or any part of them, may be removed, without any material prejudice to the Vizier's affairs, you will ſend a notification thereof in writing ſeverally to each of the officers commanding them, that their ſervices are no longer required, a correſpondent order having been ſent by us to the commanding officers at Cawnpoor and Chunar, to command the inſtant return of every detachment, within twenty-four hours after the receipt of ſuch notification from you.

If at any time hereafter the Vizier ſhall require any extraordinary aid for the internal defence of his dominions, you will addreſs the commanding officer of the neareſt ſtation within the province of Bahar, requiring ſuch aſſiſtance to be ſent immediately; but if the occaſion ſhall be ſo ſudden and urgent as not to admit of the delay of ſuch a diſtant application, you will, in that caſe, make the requiſition to the officer commanding at Chunar; or, finally (but not without the moſt preſſing, moſt abſolute, and moſt evident neceſſity) to the commanding officer at Cawnpoor, or the frontier ſtation, wherever it may be, of the Vizier's dominions. On every ſuch occaſion you will take the precaution to receive a requiſition in writing from the

Digitized by Google

Vizier for ſuch aid, and tranſmit inſtant advice of it to us, not waiting for the detail of the reaſons which have induced the Vizier to require the extraordinary aid, or you to comply with his requiſition; but theſe, to prevent delay, may be communicated to us afterwards, as ſoon as your leiſure will permit.

Fort William, We are, &c.
24th Oct. 1782.

Extract of the Secret Letter from Bengal; dated 10*th November* 1782.

Par. 49. YOU will obſerve, by the proceedings noted in the margin, [Conſ. 23d. Sept.] that our own conviction of Mr. Middleton's remiſſneſs in his duty, as reſident at the Vizier's court, obliged us to remove him from that ſtation, and to appoint in his room Mr. Briſtow, whom you had nominated to the office. Mr. Briſtow has accordingly left the preſidency on his way to Lucknow, and we have furniſhed him with particular inſtructions for his public conduct as our miniſter.

Ordered, That the Secretary do ſend for the agent of Gopaul Doſs, and enquire, if he will accept the bills, if he has no objection to accept them,

Ordered, That they be ſent to the Treaſury, and preſented accordingly.

Read the following Letter from Colonel James Morgan.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have been honoured with your letter of the 24th ultimo, and the orders ſhall be iſſued as you have directed therein.

I will pay due attention to your inſtructions for my ſending a report inſtantly to you, and to the Commander in Chief, when any detachment of troops ſhall be ordered away from this ſtation, upon receiving a requiſition in writing, &c. This I ſhould never have omitted to do upon former occaſions, had I not concluded, that the Commander in Chief always reported it to you; as I regularly and immediately tranſmitted to him information, whenever any troops were detached from hence, and upon what ſervice they were ſent. And I ſuppoſed it could not have remained unknown to you how the troops under my command are diſpoſed of, when a return of them is ſent every month to your Military Secretary, as well as to the Commander in Chief; and in it is noted, where the troops are ſtationed, or detached, with other occurrences.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

Camp, near Cawnpore, (Signed) JA^s^. MORGAN.
5th November 1782. Colonel commanding 2d brigade.

Extract

Digitized by Google

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, 22*d November* 1782.

READ the following Letters from Mr. Briſtow

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 24th ultimo.

In obedience to your orders I ſhall, whenever the Vizier may no longer require the ſervice of the troops now detached in his dominions, ſend a notification to the commanding officers. The acting miniſter, on behalf of the Vizier, has repeatedly and urgently requeſted they may remain for the preſent; indeed he has repreſented the utter impoſſibility of repreſſing the turbulent ſpirit of the Zemindars, and realizing the collections, except by the aſſiſtance of the Honourable Company's troops. I muſt refer you for my reaſons at large to the general repreſentations I propoſe making of the ſtate of the country; I will, however, endeavour to contrive that ſuch regiments may be immediately returned to the brigade at Cawnpore, as ſhall render the force there reſpectable.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, (Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
4th Nov. 1782. Reſident at the Vizier's court.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 21ſt ultimo.

Ulmaſs Ally Cawn's having withdrawn himſelf from the Vizier's authority had created a temporary anarchy in the diſtricts he farmed, which yielded about half the revenues of this government. Tumults had alſo happened in other parts of his Excellency's dominions, and his authority appeared to me to have ſuffered ſuch interruptions, that the moſt vigorous and prudent meaſures became neceſſary to awe the turbulent ſpirit which had actuated the people in the late inſurrections.

I had the ſatisfaction to find that no renewal of the diſturbances was likely to ariſe at the preſent juncture: Ulmaſs Ally Cawn had returned to Lucknow upon aſſurances of perſonal ſafety; and he now profeſſes obedience: the tumults had ſubſided, owing to the large detachments from your brigade at Cawnpore; and the objects which immediately attracted my notice, were the recommending general arrangements for the ſecurity and internal peace of the Vizier's dominions in future, and the realizing the Company's claims.

To have addreſſed you with an imperfect knowledge of the ſituation of affairs might have produced bad conſequences;

Digitized by Google

quences; and as it appeared impoſſible to me to ſtate the matter in a clear point of view by partial explanations, I therefore deferred making any repreſentations for the preſent. I expect in a few days to ſubmit to your conſideration a ſtatement of the Vizier's revenue, his civil and military eſtabliſhments, and every other matter reſpecting his government.

I have found great difficulty in obtaining correct information, and procuring the neceſſary accounts. This has been the reaſon of my ſilence hitherto, and will, I hope, meet with your indulgence.

I have iſſued the Vizier's Perwannahs to the Aumils and Phouzdars, on whom the honourable Company's aſſignments are granted, and exerted myſelf in endeavouring to ſecure the funds for the ſpeedy liquidation of the claims on his Excellency. I am, however, much embarraſſed by the engagements made with the Bankers, on account of their depoſits of teeps and bills of exchange on the preſidency: Mr. Middleton informed you of thoſe engagements in his letter of the 7th September laſt, and the difficulty will ariſe in ſupporting the bankers in the recovery of ſums they may advance, at the ſame time realizing the Honourable Company's current aſſignments; I ſhall ſubmit the particulars of theſe matters to your conſideration in due courſe of time.

I have ſtrongly recommended the reduction of Ulmaſs Ally Cawn's power, and it is with great ſatisfaction I acquaint you that by my advice he was deprived of the charge of additional countries, yielding a revenue of ſixty lacks a year, in addition of thoſe he had actual poſſeſſion of. The Perwannahs to the Aumils in poſſeſſion, apprizing them of their removal, had been prepared four days before my arrival. Upon conſideration, however, Ulmaſs deferred diſpatching his Naibs until I ſhould take charge of the reſidency. About two months ago he had conſented to farm Corah, Etaya, Shara, &c. The power he acquires from thoſe extenſive diſtricts renders him a dangerous ſubject; and if it had been practicable at this advanced ſeaſon of the year, I would not have ſcrupled to recommend the depriving him of all truſt under the Vizier's government. I had not time to form a certain judgment how far a defection of his people could have been effected.

I am told it was poſſible to have ſucceeded in this point, which would doubtleſs have been the ſafeſt mode of acting; but had I failed by precipitately involving the Vizier in a meaſure of this delicate nature, or had a conſiderable loſs of revenue been the conſequence, I ſhould have been juſtly expoſed to cenſure. I have, for theſe reaſons, temporized with Ulmaſs Ally Cawn, and aſſured him of ſupport, ſo long as he may ſhew ſtrict and implicit obedience to the Vizier.

Digitized by Google

Vizier. He has aſked me to recommend it to his Excellency to apply to the commanding officer for 2 regiments of ſepoys, with 2 pieces of battering cannon, and 2 howitzers, to beſiege the Fort of Saſſery in the Dowab, a ſervice to which his own force is unequal. The Zemindar of that diſtrict has long reſiſted the authority of the Vizier's officers.

I beg your inſtructions on this head, and in the event of your approbation, with reſpect to granting him aſſiſtance, you would not wiſh to have the fort garriſoned by the Honourable Company's troops. Ulmaſs Ally Cawn does not want to undertake the ſiege for 2 months to come, and has requeſted that I would avoid mentioning the ſubject to the Vizier. I have, however, confidentially acquainted Sir John Cumming of it, in order that he may obtain every neceſſary information of the ſtrength of the fort of Saſſny, and to enable him to form a judgment how far it may, from its ſituation, prove a check upon Ulmaſs. I preſume it is your wiſh to preſerve the brigade at Cawnpore as complete as poſſible, and therefore in future I ſhall, on all occaſions, recommend it to the Vizier, when in want of military aid, to apply to Colonel Sir John Cumming.

Mirza Shuffy Cawn had agreeable to the information conveyed to you by Mr. Middleton, in his letters of the 14th and 15th September laſt, obtained the ſuperiority among the parties at the court of Delhi. The deficiency of means to pay the numerous eſtabliſhment of troops in his ſervice, made him apprehenſive of a mutiny. In order to avoid the conſequences that might follow, he fled from Delhy, carrying Mujjud ud Dowlah a priſoner along with him, and is now himſelf near Muttrah, with between 5 and 6,000 men, endeavouring to collect a greater force; it is ſaid he wiſhes to come to a reconciliation with Afraſaib Cawn. Mahomed Beg Humdanny, his principal partizan, has marched to the neighbourhood of Jypore againſt Rajah Hemſet Behadre, and is ſaid to have near 30,000 men. Mirza Shuffey's flight gave the aſcendancy at Delhi to the oppoſite party. Latafutt Ally Cawn and Monſieur Paulie, the Guardian of the late Sombre's ſon ſeem to be leading men. They have continued Nudjif Cooley Cawn in confinement, as alſo put reſtraints on the ſiſter of the late Nudjif Cawn; they propoſe taking the field, but I doubt much their doing it; and whilſt diſſenſions at Delhi may laſt, the Vizier will have little to apprehend from that quarter.

I have informed Mr. Anderſon of my having taken charge of my office, and communicated to him the intelligence of the arrival of the ſtrong detachment under Colonel Sir John Cumming, and ſuch other matters relative to the Vizier's dominions as appeared to me deſerving of his attention.

The

Digitized by Google

The rains have been upon the whole very favourable in the Vizier's dominions, which promise a plentiful crop. There was very little in the beginning of the season in the provinces of Etaya and Corah, for which deficiency the heavy fall in the latter part has in some measure compensated. A great scarcity is apprehended towards Delhy and Agra, from the small quantity of rain in those parts.

I have taken the liberty to submit the above summary of the state of affairs to your consideration, hoping it may prove sufficiently explanatory, until I may have the opportunity of entering minutely into the subject, which will be in the course of a few days.

In reply to your commands relative to Mr. Middleton's propositions for restraining the power of Fyzula Cawn, and suspending the execution of any plan that may have been undertaken, I beg leave to inform you, that the Vizier himself has kept the matter in suspence. Conformable to the spirit of your instructions, I shall advise his Excellency against the measure; but, in my opinion, he had not a force equal to the undertaking. The Minister has promised me a copy of the correspondence of this court with Fyzula Cawn, and a narrative of all transactions relative to him, which I shall forward to you, accompanied by such other intelligence of his designs which I may have collected by means of my own agents. Fyzula Cawn in his letter professes great respect and attachment to the Vizier, though when requests have been made of him he evades compliance. When I may transmit to you the statement of the Vizier's revenue, you will be furnished with the necessary lights regarding the appointments of Daroga Tussea or Muster-masters. It is my duty however to inform you, they have never received charge of their offices, though nominated in September, as mentioned in Mr. Middleton's letter of the 17th of that month. Molovey Mowbeen, the Sudder ul Huck, is in the same situation. I expect great opposition in effecting these two points, which, in my opinion, appear necessary, as I hope I shall be able to prove.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, 4th Nov. 1782.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW, Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Minute of the Board on Mr. Bristow's Letters of the 4th November.

As it appears from Mr. Bristow's letters, and consists with the clear knowledge of the board, that the Nabob Vizier is in no capacity to undertake a plan of offensive operations against Fyzula Cawn, as there appears no cause why such a design

Digitized by Google

design should be formed, and as little to be apprehended any similar intention on the part of Fyzula Cawn, the board are of opinion, that nothing more is wanting to put a stop to their repeated alarms than to employ some means of conciliation, which, by satisfying the Vizier's claims, and removing every pretext for dispute between them, may place his sovereignty, and Fyzula Cawn's dependance, on a new footing, and prescribe a fixed and certain line to both. The first cause of difference between them appears to have arisen from the vague and indefinite condition, which expresses Fyzula Cawn's obligation to furnish a military aid to the Vizier whenever required. This was certainly understood by both parties at the time of the negociation to relate solely to a body of 5,000 horse, but the written terms of the condition are, that he shall furnish that number of horse and foot—by which the whole intention of the condition is frustrated, since foot can afford no service, and a single horseman sent with them will be a literal accomplishment of Fyzula Cawn's engagement.

The act as it stands will therefore be a source of perpetual disagreement, nor will it be much mended by a clearer specification of the kinds of force which are to compose this aid; the simplest expedient, and liable to no possible misconstruction or dispute, will be to convert it into a fixed subsidy. For the accommodation of this, and other contested matters, such for example as the Board understand the increased revenue of Fyzula Cawn's Jaghire, by his reception of great multitudes of the Vizier's Ryots, to be, the Board are of opinion, that the Vizier should be advised to require Fyzula Cawn to concert with him, and form a new agreement upon these points, and that the resident be directed to advise the Vizier accordingly.

Read the following letter from Major General Stibbert.

Gentlemen,

I beg leave to inclose for your information the accompanying extracts of news, which I last night received from Colonel Morgan, commanding at Cawnpore, giving an account of a new revolution which has happened among the contending ministers at the court of Delhi.

Fort William, I have the honour to be, &c.
Nov. 4th 1782. (Signed) G. STIBBERT.

Delhi, Thursday, 17th October 1782.

Early in the morning, Mirza Shuffi Khân was reviewing his battalions and Artillery that were at exercise on the Reti, or Sandy Plain on the Jamna Side. The King hearing of it, sent one of his attendants to signify to him that he offered

Digitized by Google

offered up his prayers for him; which mark of honour Mirza Shuffi alighted from his elephant to receive with the due and profoundest reverence. Soon after the King was informed, that a Mr. Pool, Powel, or Fowles, an European, who commands several battalions there, had posted his troops at the different gates of the fort, in which the royal palace stands, and had shut them to prevent any person from going out or in; the principal avenues of the city were also secured by Mr. Pool, and Lutafat Ally Cawn's troops, to prevent any body from escaping. These two sent a message to his Majesty, advising him to repair immediately to the Jameh Muzjed, or a large mosque, just without the wall of the fort; to this he objected, till they would swear solemnly on the Koran to be faithful and true to him, and to fix their seals on the book, which they accordingly did, and sent it to him; upon receiving it, he ordered a proclamation to be made immediately through the city, directing all such as were adherents to Mirza Shuffi to quit Delhi forthwith, and all those who chose to follow the royal banners to repair to them immediately. The King then mounted a Tukht Howadar, or kind of portable throne, and proceeded towards the Jameh Muzjed; when he got without the fort gate, he mounted an Elephant, taking his eldest son Mirza Jewan Bukht, in the Khuwasse, with him. They were met by Mr. Pool, Lutafat Ali Khan, Ashoor Ali Khan, and Gunga Ram, each of whom offered his Nizar, which the King accepted, and directed them to go to the Jameh Muzjed, and he should be there himself soon after them, in order to hold a consultation on the present critical state of affairs. About nine o'clock he arrived there, and was informed, that Mirza Shuffi Khan, Mudjed-ul-Dowlah, Shewa Ram, and Mendhi Kooli Khan, with some other principal men, had retired to the camp, which was pitched on the Sandy Plain, or Reti: upon which he declared, that it was highly expedient to proceed to punish them, without loss of time, as notorious offenders. Soon after fresh information was brought, that Mirza Shuffi, and the principal officers who continued of his party, and had followed him to camp, upon arriving there, found the troops exceedingly disaffected and incensed against them. Therefore, concluding it was very unsafe to trust themselves with them, moved off expeditiously to the Jamna side, attended by about 300 horse only, and they crossed the river on horseback.

About noon all the Toorani Risalehdars, and most of the officers of Mirza's Shuffi's army, repaired to the King's banners at the Jameh Muzjed, in consequence of

Digitized by Google

the proclamation, and expressed their entire devotion to his Majesty and service and obedience to his mandates.

He, in return, encouraged them with liberal promises, and gave orders to Mr. Pool and Lutafat Ali Khân to go and fetch Nudjif Kooli Khân, who was confined in Mudjed ul Dowlah's house, at the instigation of the late Nudjif Kooli Khân's sister, to whom the King sent a message, assuring her that she should not receive the least disturbance, and desiring to make herself easy on this occasion. When Nudjif Kooli Khân was conducted into the King's presence, he prostrated himself, and promised to be for ever devoted to his service and commands, then he received many marks and assurances of the royal favour.

About three o'clock in the afternoon, intelligence was brought of Mirza Shuffi, and his few followers, having taken the rout of Fuzzeedabad, which is about 8 Coss from Delhi, or the road to Agra. The King bestowed the Jaydahs that were Mirza Shuffe's upon different people, and he ordered a letter to be dispatched to Mahommed Beg Khân Hamdani, inviting him to march to Delhi, and promising him honours and advancement. He then ordered 4 companies of Sepoys to be posted at different gates of the fort, and guards to be stationed at the principal avenues of the city, then returned to the royal palace.

A true extract.

Cawnpore, 22d Oct. 1782. H. LLOYD, Acting Persian Translator, 2d Brigade in the Field.

Resolved, That the following letter be written to Mr. Bristow.

Sir,

We have received your letters of the 2d and 4th instant. We approve of the different parts of your conduct which are stated to us by these letters. The bills enclosed in the first, together with those previously received from Mr. Middleton, have been presented for acceptance, and we ascribe the honour paid them to the arrangements made by you for securing the claims of the Shroffs, which, as they had the sanction of a formal agrement, you did right to confirm.

The result of your enquiries, concerning the plan proposed by Mr. Middleton for restraining the Nabob Fyzula Cawn, is entirely consistent with our own knowledge and opinion. It appears to us, that nothing more is wanting to put an entire stop to the repeated alarms from that quarter, than to employ means of conciliation, which, by satisfying the Vizier's claims, and removing every pretext for dispute between them, may place his sovereignty, and Fyzula Cawn's

Cawn's dependance, on a new footing, and fix a certain line for both. The first cause of difference between them appears to have arisen from the vague and indefinite condition which expresses Fyzula Cawn's obligation to furnish a military aid to the Vizier whenever required. This was certainly understood by both parties, at the time of the negociation, to relate solely to a body of 5,000 horse, but the written terms of the condition are, that he shall furnish that number of horse and foot; by which the whole intention of the condition is frustrated, since foot can afford no service, and a single horseman sent with them will be a literal accomplishment of Fyzula Cawn's engagement. The article as it stands will therefore be a source of perpetual disagreement, nor will it be much mended by a clearer specification of the kind of force which are to compose this aid; the simplest expedient, and liable to no possible misconstruction or dispute, will be to convert it into a fixed subsidy.

For the accommodation of this, and other contested points, such as the increased revenue of Fyzula Cawn's Jagheer is said to be, by his reception of multitudes of the Vizier's Ryots, we recommend, that you advise the Vizier to require Fyzula Cawn to concert and form with him a new and permanent agreement on these points, which may obviate all future signs of jealousy or distrust.

We cannot but approve of the wary and prudent conduct which you have observed towards Almass Ali Khân. To grant his application for two regiments of Sepoys to besiege the fort of Saseny might prove a still further means of securing his allegiance, or at least of curbing his inclination to revolt, by bringing a force capable of restraining him, nearer to his capital. We therefore give our sanction to this measure, if you shall think proper to put it in practice, but we wish to leave it principally to your judgment and discretion, as you will be better able, from a local knowledge, and other casual circumstances, to determine the expediency of it.

Fort William, 22d Nov. 1782. We are, &c.

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 25th November 1782.

RECEIVED the following letter from Mr. Bristow.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

I beg leave to enclose you the copies of a letter I have received from Major Roberts, and my answer, which I hope will prove a sufficient explanation of the service upon which

Digitized by Google

which that officer is employed in his Excellency the Vizier's dominions.

Lucknow, 10th Nov. 1782. I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's court.

To John Briſtow, Eſquire, &c. &c.

Sir,

Permit me to inform you, that Umraw Sing has erected new works at Denkwah, on the banks of the Goompty, and is making preparation to re-take the fort of Gurra, which place I deprived him of in March laſt, and delivered to Barker Beg, the Phouſdar of the Moule Purgunnah, by deſire of Mr. Middleton. I beg leave to inform you, that by Umraw Sing (who is a very refractory enterprizing man) being either in poſſeſſion of Gurra, or Durkaw, not only the tranquility of the country will be at ſtake, but the navigation of the Goompty river greatly interrupted. On receiving this information, ſhould you deem it of ſufficient conſequence to make the requiſition, I will immediately march and deſtroy the works, Jungle, &c. &c. at Durkwah.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Camp, near Juanpore, 8th Nov. 1782. (Signed) W. ROBERTS,
Major commanding a detachment, in the Juanpore diſtrict.

To Major William Roberts, commanding a detachment in the Juanpore diſtrict.

Sir,

I have juſt received your letter of the 8th inſtant.

A ſimilar application to your's has been made by Atta Beg, the Aumil of Mahole, to the Vizier; and in conſequence of your joint repreſentations, he has been pleaſed to permit your entering into his dominions, to co-operate with Atta Beg, in ſeizing or expelling Umraw Sing. If you ſhould happen to apprehend him, or any of the principal Zemindars concerned in this inſurrection, you will keep them priſoners until you ſhall receive further orders from me, as I am furniſhed with poſitive inſtructions to recommend it to his Excellency to make an example of the firſt offenders that may be taken.

You will pleaſe, while you remain in the Vizier's dominions, to comply with the requiſitions of the Aumils, in the ſupport of their authority, and reſtoring the peace of the country. I requeſt you will communicate your tranſactions to me, and you ſhall receive every aſſiſtance in my power.—

Digitized by Google

power.—I have transmitted a copy of this letter to Colonel Blaire.

Lucknow, 10 Nov. 1782. I have the honour to be, &c.
JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's court.

A true copy.
J. Hill, assistant to the Resident.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

The Seiks have for years past made depredations, even to the walls of Delhy. During the last year Mirza Shuffee Cawn was employed against them. He defeated them in several skirmishes, and advanced into their country as far as Umballa, thirty coss beyond Carnal. On the death of Nudjiff Cawn, when Mirza Shuffee formed views of succeeding in the controul of the court of Delhy, he withdrew his army from the frontier, which thus became again exposed to the depredations of the Seiks. They have lately collected in large bodies, insomuch as to give the alarm for the peace and security of Rohilcund. Khanja Aumul Deen, the Phousdar, had been ordered to attend at Lucknow, at the usual period, to make a settlement of his accounts. He in consequence did set off, but was stopped in the way by a letter he received from Zabitta Cawn, informing him of the numerous bodies of Seiks which were collected together, suggesting his suspicion of their intentions, and warning of the danger that might attend the Vizier's dominions, by his absence. Khanja Ain ul Deen represented the matter to the Vizier; and having excused himself from attending at Lucknow, afterwards marched to Daranagur.

Khanja Ain ul Deen also sends intelligence, of his having been informed, in a letter addressed to him by Currem Sing, one of the Seik chiefs, that Imaum Sing, an apostate from the Mussulman faith, who formerly served under him, had inspired the Seiks with respect for his character. He invites Caja Ain ul Deen to a friendly correspondence, and proposes an interview, having secrets to communicate which cannot with safety be transmitted by letter. He requests a confidential agent should be deputed to the Seiks; and they on their parts would send one to him. He concludes, by informing Khanja Ain ul Deen, that they have collected a body of twenty thousand troops, and advises him to assist in the execution of their designs; to which, by common report, he is not disinclined: but on this head I cannot speak with any certainty.

The Seiks have plundered some districts on the other side of the Ganges, in the dominions of the king. They are now collected near Hardwam.

 The

Digitized by Google

The province of Rohilcund is at this juncture unfortunately exposed to other bad consequences, beside what may arise from alarms created by the vicinity of so large a body of Seiks. Khauja Ain ud Deen, the Phouzdar, possesses the same independent spirit that actuated Ulmas Ali Khân. He is not entrusted with the charge of such extensive districts, nor is he deemed a man of equal abilities, and the troops entertained by his own authority are fewer in number. His conduct during the defection of Almass Ali Khân appeared very suspicious; but he never was guilty of avowedly withdrawing himself from the Vizier's authority.

The revenues of Rohilcund may altogether produce sixty lacks of rupees, fifty-two of which are under the charge of Khauja Ain ul Deen; the remaining eight were formerly granted, in Jagheer and Jaydaad, to Lutefat Ally Cawn, for the support of his embassy, and the troops under his command, stationed at the court of Delhy. When Lutafut's employments were taken from him, he received directions to order his troops to return to the Vizier's dominions: part were sent, but he kept the guns which were attached to them in his own possession. The Jagheer and Jaydaad were of course resumed, and in the beginning of this year entrusted to the management of Mirza Mahomed Cauzim. When I took charge of the Residency, the province of Rohilcund was in the state I now represent to you. Khauja Ain ul Deen, who wished to be sole Phousdar, had engaged the acting minister to support his views; and it was even proposed to me, to recommend it to the Vizier to give him the Jagheer and Jaydaad of Lutafat Ali Khân. I objected to the measure, thinking him already too powerful, and that his conduct had otherwise rendered him unworthy the favour of the Vizier. To remove him at the present season appeared impracticable, as it could not be done but with a loss of revenue, that the situation of the Vizier's affairs would not admit of: the acting minister, through whom the proposal came, readily acquiesced in the propriety of my opinion; and I hope my conduct in this instance will meet your approbation.

With regard to the Jagheer and Jaydaad of Lutafat, the minister afterwards recommended that it should be continued in the hands of Mirza Cauzim; to which I did not object, having heard a good account of his abilities, and of his attachment to the English.

Khaujah Ain ul Deen, flattered with expectations of success, had, about the time of my arrival, made his arrangements to take possession of the Jagheer and Jaydaad, publicly declaring, that they were to be given him; and he had actually sent his Naibs to the borders of those districts. Mirza Cauzim represents that one of them (Bunce

Raje)

Raje) plundered the Purgunnah of Ifbamnegur; that Goodrefs Mull, in conjunction with Fuzulla Beg, Naib of Pulibut, followed by their own Mootayna, with two guns, and about four thoufand infurgents, have deftroyed the villages in the diftrict of Jelaulpore, the revenue of which laft year amounted to a lack and a half of rupees. Similar depredations were made againft Khoda Gunge. Mirza Cawzim remonftrated with the Naibs, and produced the Vizier's Perwannah of inveftiture, but without effect. He then threatened refiftance, but whether he actually made any I am not yet informed.

This, gentlemen, is a narrative of the late commotions in Rohilcund, agreeable to the reprefentation of Mirza Mahomed Cauzim.

Khauja Ain ul Dein endeavours to exculpate himfelf by afferting that Mirza Mahomed Cauzim incited the peafants to infurrections, and that they had in confequence committed depredations in the diftricts under his charge. I am however of opinion, from every circumftance I can collect from perfons totally difinterefted between the parties, that Mirza Cauzim was not to blame. The inequality of his force to that of Khaujau Ain ul Deen's, added to the avowed defigns of his opponent to difpoffefs him, are ftrong prefumptive, if not convincing evidence in his favour.

The criminality of the offender, whoever it may happen to be, fhould meet with the fevereft punifhment; but the ftate of the Vizier's government is fuch with refpect to Almafs Ali Cawn, and Khauja Ain ul Deen, that there is neither controul nor influence in the diftricts under their charge. The motives which influenced my conduct towards Almafs Ali Cawn apply equally to the caufe of Khauja Ain ul Deen. The neighbourhood of a numerous body of Seiks ready to enter the country, the fuppofed difaffection of Fyzula Cawn, and the pretenfions of Zebita Cawn to his hereditary domain of Nudjebabad, taken from him by the late Vizier, confpire to create in my opinion infuperable difficulties to the attempting vigourous meafures until the revenues of the prefent year fhall be fecured. By what I can learn of Fyzula Cawn, he is a man of a timid difpofition, and not likely to take an active part in the oppofition to the Vizier, unlefs driven to it by ill ufage, or excited by a certain profpect of paffing with impunity. His countrymen would in all probability fupport him with zeal and courage, as I believe the generality of them to be difaffected to the Vizier and the Englifh. Fyzula Cawn, though a bad foldier, has proved himfelf a good Aumil, having, it is fuppofed, in the courfe of a few years at leaft doubled the population and revenue of

of his country. Zabita Cawn will I believe be very ready, when able to take the lead againſt the Vizier; and as to the Seiks, it is the weakneſs of this government, not their ſtrength, which may render their operations formidable. They act under ſeparate chiefs, and are of courſe unſteady in the execution of their plans: their numbers cannot be above half what Kauja Ain ul Deen's intelligence ſtates; and I think, ſhould he have taken the precautions he ſays he has done, of guarding the Gauts, little will be to be apprehended from them.

From the ſtatements furniſhed me by the acting miniſter, there ought to be three thouſand matchlock men, four battalions of Sepoys, and above fifteen hundred cavalry ſtationed in the whole of the province of Rohilcund, beſides two thouſand men which Khauja in Aul Deen informs the Vizier he has entertained above the eſtabliſhment, in conſequence of the number of Seiks collected on the frontiers. Should it be neceſſary to ſend reinforcements there, they muſt conſiſt either of the Honourable Company's troops, or of thoſe of his Excellency's ſtationed at this place, none can be ſpared from the interior parts of the country. The Vizier has about one thouſand cavalry, diſciplined and armed after the European manner, now at Lucknow; and he has it in agitation to detach this corps to Rohilcund, judging it the fitteſt for the ſervice that is likely to occur.

I do not recommend the march of any of the Honourable Company's troops either to ſupport or awe Khauja Ain ul Deen, becauſe I think it neceſſary firſt to ſubmit to your conſideration a particular ſtatement of the Vizier's dominions. I am ſorry to ſay I find myſelf diſappointed in my expectation of tranſmitting it with that expedition I could have wiſhed. I think it very poſſible, on a review of the ſtatement of the Vizier's Mootayana, and the weakneſs of his government, that you will not think it expedient to detach any of the Honourable Company's troops to ſo great a diſtance from your own frontiers as the province of Rohilcund. Khauja Ain ul Deen has correſponded with and tranſmitted to me information of his proceedings: I have endeavoured to give him confidence in our government, and ſtrongly recommended his uniting with Mirza Mahomed Cauzim.

I beg leave to inform you that Almaſs Ali Cawn has left this place to go to Coder Cote, intending to croſs the Jumna, and attack the fort of Commeit, which belongs to the Vizier; but the Zemindar has, in conſequence of the general confuſion, eſtabliſhed his independence for the preſent. Almaſs Ali Cawn profeſſed obedience at his departure, and I have ſince had no intelligence of his proceedings.

I have

Digitized by Google

I have taken the liberty to represent these circumstances, conceiving it better thus to intrude upon your time, than to suffer reports exaggerating the truth to reach you.

The scarcity at Delhi begins to rage in an alarming degree. The King has written to the Vizier for orders to the Phouzdar of Rohilcund, to suffer grain to be exported from that province, which his Excellency has thought proper to comply with, but in such manner as not to affect his own dominions.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, 13th Nov. 1782. (Signed) JOHN BRISTOW, Resident at the Vizier's court.

Read the following letters from Major General Stibbert.

Gentlemen,

The inclosed is a copy of a letter addressed to me by Col. Morgan, accompanied with a transcript of one written to him by Colonel Sir John Cumming.

Though, in conformity to the orders of the court of Directors, it was resolved by the Board, that Colonel Sir John Cumming should command at Futty Ghur, independent of the authority of Colonel Morgan; yet it was doubtless their intention, that in cases of invasion or general commotion, all the troops of the upper provinces should act in conjunction, or separately, as circumstances should require, under the direction of the superior officer. But as the instructions given to Colonel Sir John Cumming, are altogether silent upon this point, I find myself under the necessity of requesting that the Board will be pleased to point out how far, and on what occasions, Colonel Morgan may send orders to and command the assistance of Colonel Sir John Cumming; for were this matter left to the judgment of the parties concerned, altercations might probably ensue, which in their consequences might prove highly prejudicial to the service.

I must beg leave to explain to the Board on what occasion the letter alluded to by Colonel Morgan, respecting returns being made to him of all the troops within the limits of the Vizier's dominions was written by me.—Colonel Blair some time ago, upon the requisition of the Resident at the Vizier's court, detached a battalion of Sepoys from Chunar to Illahabad, and another to Sahlone; the officer in command of the former omitted, on his arrival within the districts of the Nabob, to send information thereof to Colonel Morgan, and declined complying with an order for a return of his detachment. The matter being referred for my decision, I gave the opinion which Colonel Morgan has quoted; for though the Board might think

Digitized by Google

think proper to place Colonel Sir John Cumming, independent of Colonel Morgan, I could not conceive it to be their intention that any other troops in the Vizier's dominions should be free from his authority.

Fort William, 21st Nov. 1782. I have the honour to be, &c. G. STIBBERT.

Sir,

I am concerned to be under the necessity of troubling you with the perusal of the inclosed, the contents of which are sufficiently explanatory of the business, and will shew how much I wish to avoid having altercations of any kind.

Colonel Sir John Cumming has marched his detachment into the Vizier's dominions without informing me of it, nor has he been pleased to take any notice of me, further than by writing the letter for stores; from the manner of his signing which it seems as if he considered himself entirely independant of my authority, and as if he meant to pursue the same mode of conduct on this occasion as he did last year on similar ones. Indeed I do not know what to think of his not signing his rank or station to a letter upon the service.

From the late order concerning him, it does not appear, that he is set free from my authority, or rendered independant of my command: though I am far from wishing to have any in particular over him, yet I think there should be no room left for disputes, as, in cases of emergency, a supposition of a separate and divided command might prove detrimental to the public service. Therefore I beg leave to submit the matter immediately to your decision, in which I will readily acquiesce; or if you think proper to refer it to the honourable Board, I request to know of them, if their intention was to appoint him to the command of Futty Ghur, independant of my authority, which your late letter to me does not seem to confirm, but points out that a return should have been sent to me by Colonel Sir John Cumming when he entered the limits of the Vizier's dominions.

I have the honour to be, &c

Camp, near Cawnpore, 9th Nov. 1782. (Signed) JAs. MORGAN, Col. commanding 2d Brigade, and troops in the field.

Sir,

I am honoured with your letter of the 6th instant, and in reply to it have to inform you, that I have not received any instructions from the Commander in Chief about supplying the detachment under your command with ammunition or stores from the magazine at this station.

But in all matters that can concern the general good of the state, I would rather anticipate the intentions of my superiors;

Digitized by Google

periors; and as far as it lays in my power I am always ready to obviate any obstacles to the public service, therefore I shall give directions to the Field Commissary of Ordnance to comply with your indents, as far as the magazine will admit of.

Here I shall beg leave to observe, that I am at a loss to know what construction to put upon the manner in which you signed your letter to me on the public service, having affixed your name only to it, though I do not mean to ask an interpretation of it from you.

Allow me to acquaint you, that the Commander in Chief, in a letter I received from him lately (since the detachment you now command marched last from Dinapore) gave me to understand, in answer to one I wrote him on the subject of having returns sent to me of such troops as might be ordered into the Nabob Vizier's dominions, that all troops marching into the limits of them became subject to my authority, and must return to me.

And, with submission to the opinion of my superiors, I cannot think that either the honourable Board or the Commander in Chief could act so partially, or break so far through the established military rules, so essentially necessary to the support of good order, subordination, and discipline, as to except you alone in this instance; however, there being no call for any private communication between us, and being desirous myself to avoid, by every means in my power, any altercations upon subjects of a public nature that cannot tend to benefit the service, I shall transmit a copy of this letter to the Commander in Chief, and shall at the same time request of him to give his decision upon the foregoing subject, or to refer it to the Board for theirs.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Cawnpore, (Signed) JA^{s}. MORGAN.
8th Nov. 1782. Commanding the troops in the field.

Gentlemen,

At the particular desire of Colonel Sir John Cumming, I do myself the honour of laying before you the accompanying copies of letters that passed between him and Colonel Morgan respecting their separate authorities which complete the correspondence on the subject submitted to your honourable Board a few days since.

The letter which Sir John takes notice of as conveying to Colonel Morgan the Board's intention of making the two commands distinct, I never saw; had I been furnished with a copy of it, it might perhaps have been in my power to have avoided troubling the Board with these references.

Regarding the supply of ammunition which brought on the above-mentioned correspondence between Colonels Morgan

Digitized by Google

Morgan and Cumming, an order was dispatched by the Secretary to the Board of Ordnance to the Commissary at the Cawnpore magazine, to furnish whatever articles might be requisite to complete the proportion of stores intended for Sir John Cumming's detachment that could not be supplied at Chunar, which precluded the necessity of my writing on the subject.

Fort William, 25th Nov. 1782. I have the honour to be, &c. (Signed) G. STIBBERT.

To Colonel James Morgan, commanding the 2d Brigade.

Sir,

As there are several articles of store requisite for the use of the detachment under my command, which could not be furnished by the magazine at Chunar Ghur, and as I was given to understand by the Commander in Chief, that the deficiencies should be supplied from the magazine at Cawnpore, I have to request you will inform me whether the General has addressed you on the subject; and whether you will be pleased to order the Commissary to comply with such indents as I may be under the necessity of making.

Cohrpore, 6th Nov. 1782. I have the honour to be, &c. (Signed) JOHN CUMMING, Col.

A true Copy, as near as I can recollect, not having the letter book with me.

(Signed) Ralph Broome, Secretaryto Col. Cumming.

To Colonel Sir John Cumming, commanding a detachment of the 3d Brigade.

Sir,

I am honoured with your letter of the 6th instant, and in reply to it have to inform you, that I have not received any instructions from the Commander in Chief about supplying the detachment under your command with stores or ammunition from the magazine at this station.

But in all matters that concern the general good of the state, I would rather anticipate the intention of my superiors, and as far as it lays in my power I am always ready to obviate any obstacles to the public service; therefore I shall give directions to the Field Commissary of Ordnance to comply with your indents, as far as the magazine will admit of.

Here I shall beg leave to observe, that I am at a loss to know what construction to put upon the manner in which you signed your letter to me on the public service, having affixed your name only to it; though I do not mean to ask an interpretation of it from you.

Allow

Digitized by Google

Allow me to acquaint you that the Commander in Chief, in a letter I received from him lately (since the detachment you now command marched last from Dinapore) gave me to understand, in answer to one I wrote him on the subject of having returns sent to me of such troops as might be ordered into the Nabob Vizier's dominions, that all troops marching into the limits of them became subject to my authority, and must return to me.

And with submission to the opinion of my superiors, I cannot think that either the honourable Board or the Commander in Chief would act so partially, or break so far through the established military rules so essentially necessary to the support of good order, subordination and discipline, as to except you alone in this instance. However, there being no call for any private communication between us, and being desirous myself to avoid, by every means in my power, having any altercations on subjects of a public nature, that cannot tend to benefit the service—

I shall transmit a copy of this letter to the Commander in Chief, and shall at the same time request of him to give his decision on the foregoing subject, or to refer it to the Board for theirs. I have the honour to be, &c.

Cawnpore, (Signed) JAMES MORGAN.
8th Nov. 1782. Commanding the troops in the field.

A true copy.

R. Brome, Secretary to Col. Cumming.

To Colonel James Morgan, commanding the 2d Brigade.

Sir,

I have been honoured with the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, and am much obliged by your ready compliance with my request, in ordering the stores requisite for the use of my detachment to be delivered.

With respect to the signature of my letter, I do not recollect that it differed from my usual mode of addressing the Board or Commander in Chief. As I am detained at Lucknow by public business, and thereby prevented from referring to the letter book, I request the favour of you to transmit me a copy of the letter you complain of.

I was in hopes that a letter you must have received from the honourable Board (of which I was honoured with a copy) would have satisfied you of their intention to make my command separate from yours, and independant of any authority except their own, that of the Commander in Chief, and the Nabob Vizier.

Lucknow, I have the honour to be, &c.
11th Nov. 1782. (Signed) JOHN CUMMING.

A true copy.

R. Broome, secretary to Colonel Cumming.

Honour-

Digitized by Google

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I beg leave to tranſmit to your honourable Board, through Major General Stibbert, the copy of a letter I received from Colonel James Morgan, in anſwer to one I addreſſed him concerning ſtores required for the uſe of the detachment under my command, together with copies of my own.

I do not perfectly underſtand the grounds on which Colonel Morgan's exception to my letter is founded, unleſs he thinks that I ought to have ſigned myſelf, "commanding a detachment of the 3d brigade," which is his addreſs to me. If ſuch particularity be abſolutely neceſſary, I ſhould rather ſtile myſelf "commanding a detachment of the army," as the force I have the honour to command is compoſed of two corps, artillery and infantry, not attached to one brigade; the manner in which I ſigned myſelf was, as nearly as I can recollect, the ſame I always adopt in my addreſſes to your Board, and the Commander in Chief.

I ſhould have deemed Colonel Morgan's exception too trivial for your notice, had not part of his letter concerned your honourable Board; I was in hopes that the letter you were pleaſed to write him, reſpecting the ſervice to be performed by the detachment under my command, would have convinced him of your intention to make it independant of him; and I am the more ſurprized at this attempt to ſubject me to his authority, from the recollection of a ſimilar circumſtance, when your Board were pleaſed to expreſs ſome diſſatisfaction at his putting a conſtruction on your orders, different to their ſpirit and intention.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, (Signed) JOHN CUMMING, Col.
12th Nov. 1782.

Read the Inſtructions to Colonel Sir John Cumming, in Secret Department Conſultation, 23d September: alſo the Letter to Colonel Morgan, in Conſultation, 30th September.

Reſolved, That the following Letter be written to Colonel James Morgan:

The Provincial Commander in Chief has laid before us copies of letters which have paſſed between you and Colonel Sir John Cumming, by which we perceive, that unleſs a timely explanation is given, doubts may ariſe reſpecting the extent and independance of his command. For this reaſon we think it proper to tranſmit you a copy of the inſtructions under which he now acts; and to direct, that ſo long as he ſhall remain beyond the provinces of Oude, Cora, Curra, and Illahabad, he ſhall be totally ſeparate and independant of your authority and command, unleſs the nature and exigency

Digitized by Google

exigency of the ſervice ſhould require a junction of your force with his; in which caſe you would of courſe take the command, as ſenior officer: But ſhould it be neceſſary for Colonel Sir John Cumming, with the whole or any part of his force, to act within the provinces above mentioned, returns thereof are, from that time forward during its continuance there, to be made to you, and the Colonel or officer in command of it to obey your orders. We muſt, however, deſire that you will not give ſuch orders as may interfere with the line of duty on which they may be employed, but allow them to follow the rule preſcribed by our inſtructions.

Fort William, We are, &c.
25th Nov. 1782.

Reſolved, that the following letter be written to Sir John Cumming:

Sir,

We have received your letter of the 12th inſtant. The Provincial Commander in Chief has alſo laid before us copies of letters which have paſſed between Colonel James Morgan and you, by which it appears neceſſary to define the extent and independance of your command, on the ſtation of the brigade at Cawnpore; for this purpoſe we have written a letter to Colonel Morgan, copy of which we encloſe, and preſcribe to you alſo for your guidance.

Fort William, We are, &c.
25th Nov. 1782.

Extract of Secret Letter from Bengal, dated 4th Dec. 1782.

Par. 16. WE have received, by remittances from Mr. Middleton, immediately previous to his departure from Lucknow, bills of Exchange on the Preſidency, amounting to Calcutta Sicca Rupees 24,31,237. 10. 6; and from Mr. Briſtow, ſince that period, further bills on the ſame account, amounting to Calcutta Sicca Rupees 5,41,666. 10. 6. We by no means approve of the tranſaction of Mr. Middleton in mortgaging the receipts from the aſſigned countries, to obtain theſe remittances immediately from the Shroffs; but, as we mean to enter into an inveſtigation of the conduct of Mr. Johnſon, which is blended with that of Mr. Middleton, in the management of the affairs at Lucknow, we wiſh not to anticipate any information which it may be neceſſary to communicate to you reſpecting them; on this account, and in juſtice to Mr. Johnſon, who has ſpecially ſolicited us to poſtpone the report of our proceedings againſt him to you, till he has an opportunity of vindicating him-

Digitized by Google

ſelf, we encloſe a copy of his letter, and requeſt that you will not form any opinion to his prejudice on what has paſſed, but ſuſpend your judgment upon his conduct, till the proceedings in this enquiry ſhall be completely before you.

Extract of Bengal Secret Conſultations, 21ſt April 1783.

ORDERED, That the Secretary do collect from the records, and from the Governor General's correſpondence with Mr. Middleton, which the Governor will deliver in for that purpoſe, all the ſubjects for charges againſt Mr. Middleton and Mr. Richard Johnſon, and draw them out in the form of regular charges againſt them, for the approbation of the board.

A P P E N D I X.

Extract of Bengal Secret Conſultations, the 12th June 1783.

My dear Sir, Lucknow, 4th Oct. 1781.

I HAVE the pleaſure to inform you that I arrived here, by forced marches, on the 2d inſtant, having parted with the Nabob, who took Fayzabad in his way, at Huſſapore.—As his Excellency will not be at Lucknow till Saturday next, and the Miniſters arrived only to day, we have not yet been able to enter upon any buſineſs of moment; but you may reſt aſſured no time ſhall be unneceſſarily conſumed.

On my arrival here, I was extremely concerned to find, from Colonel Hannay's letters to my brother, that his ſituation was far more critical and dangerous than I could have had any reaſon to ſuppoſe; in ſhort, the ſafety of himſelf and detachment appeared to depend ſolely upon his obtaining immediate aſſiſtanee from this place; my brother therefore, previous to my arrival, had ſent Major Naylor's regiment, which in conſequence of your orders had been detached to Lucknow, to the Colonel's relief, and I am hopeful it will be the means of extricating him from his apparent difficulties. Major John M'Pherſon, with one battalion of his regiment, arrived here yeſterday, which enables us to ſpare Major Naylor's, otherwiſe I am convinced it would not have been by any means ſafe to detach it from Lucknow, as diſturbances prevail almoſt univerſally around us, and ſome daring deſigns have been meditated, though happily detected before they were ripe for execution, againſt the tranquillity of this town. I ſhall addreſs you on theſe ſubjects at large in a day or two, and I truſt be able

Digitized by Google

able to leave you without any apprehensions for this quarter, whatever dangers there may have been.

The enclosed letter from Colonel Hannay will exhibit to you an unpleasant, but I fear too true a picture of his situation, and evince to you the necessity there was for sending him the assistance we have done.

My dear Sir,

Your's, &c. &c.

NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

The Hon. Warren Hastings.

(Copy) To Mr. Middleton.

Sakrora, Oct. 2d 1781.

I have just received your two notes of the 30th: my destruction is infallible, unless two regiments, or at least one, arrive to my assistance, without a moment's delay.—I am surrounded on three sides, by incredible numbers of insurgents, and I shall not be able to keep the road open to Byramgaut above another day. My Sepoys, the remains of seven broken companies, desert so fast, that I shall soon be without any; most of my horse have made their terms with the rebels, and I am helpless. I have heard nothing more of Meer Ahmed Ally, and his Resaula—I have no hope but in assistance from Lucknow: for these three days I have written to you, in the most pressing terms, for aid, but I am afraid my letters have not got to you: without immediate assistance we are lost.

Lucknow, (Signed) A. H.
12th Oct. 1781.

A true Copy.

(Signed) Nathaniel Middleton.

My dear Sir,

Inclosed I take the liberty of transmitting copies of the several papers you signed previous to my departure from Chunar. The original agreement between you and the Nabob I am afraid to trust to the present uncertainty of the Dauks; it shall however be forwarded the moment you desire it, and an authentic copy may in the mean time answer your immediate purpose. These papers I have put under a sealed cover, that you may not have them opened and entered before you wish them to become public.

Permit me on this occasion, my dear Sir, to suggest to you the necessity there is of the preparatory steps being immediately taken towards accomplishing the points stipulated and agreed upon between you and the Nabob, by issuing the general orders under which the temporary brigade is to prepare to move out of the Vizier's dominions, and the English officers commanding corps in his

Digitized by Google

Excellency's ſervice to return to their reſpective ſtations in the Company's ſervice.

Two months from the date of the agreement were to be allowed (which will expire in the enſuing month) for the purpoſe of enabling the troops at remote ſtations to march down or diſband by degrees, ſo as that what remains of them may paſs the Nabob's boundaries by the time ſtipulated. If orders to this effect are not now iſſued, the time allowed will elapſe without avail, and its intended purpoſe be defeated. If you have not already fixed or iſſued your orders and arrangements for this purpoſe, I venture to intrude the propoſal of the following mode, which I entreat you will receive merely as it is intended, to ſave, or aſſiſt in ſaving, you any trouble this ſubject might give you, at a time that your mind and attention muſt be ſo wholly occupied by the great object more immediately under your conſideration.

Firſt, A general order, that all officers now employed in the interior ſervice of the Vizier do immediately repair with their commands to Lucknow, and there completely pay off their troops, and ſettle their accounts with the Paymaſter General of the Vizier's eſtabliſhment under Britiſh officers, ſo that they (the officers) may join their reſpective brigades before the end of next month, or at leaſt quit the Vizier's provinces by that period.

Secondly, An order that the ſecond, or ſuch other brigade as may be intended to occupy the frontier ſtation, do march to Etawah, and Canton there, excepting one complete regiment of Sepoys, which is always to remain with the Reſident at Lucknow, and to be relieved every three months without deviation.

Thirdly, An order, ſignifying, that as it had been ſtipulated with the Nabob Vizier that the temporary brigade and cavalry ſhall no longer be at his charge after the 30th November next, the officers of that brigade are to furniſh drafts to the 2d brigade to complete their regiments to the number newly regulated, and to march down their remaining men to complete in like manner the regiments of the 1ſt and 3d brigades, previouſly delivering over the ordnance, arms, &c. received from the Nabob Vizier—the intention of this being, that the whole of the Futty Ghur and Daranagur detachments, after being drafted for the 2d brigade, do paſs the Nabob's boundaries on or before the 30th November next. The paymaſter to ſettle all accounts with the reſident to that time.

Fourthly. An order to direct the Paymaſter of Colonel Muir's detachment, that he do not ſend in his eſtimates for that detachment to the Reſident, for the pay and allowances of any period after the 30th November next, but from thenceforward

thenceforward to make his drafts upon the military Paymaster General, or the Resident and Collector of Benares, and to close whatever accounts he may have with the Resident at Lucknow, to the period above mentioned.

This last order seems more urgently necessary than any of the foregoing, on account of the remote situation of that detachment, which might render any disappointment in its supplies of the most serious consequence.

A fifth order, to stop the temporary brigade from recruiting, might be of great use, if immediately issued, as I understand that officers are now employed in different parts of the Vizier's country on that service.—In short, my dear Sir, if it be true, as I have heard it lately reported, that you mean to re-establish the Golundaz corps, and to have an additional military establishment at Benares; the men required for these two objects, together with the drafts sufficient to complete the 3d brigade, will preclude all difficulty in disposing of the officers and men which now compose the temporary brigade and the cavalry, whether you chuse to allot one regiment to each brigade, or fix the whole at Benares.

It is also to be observed, that it is not indispensably necessary, by the new agreement with the Nabob, that the troops are to leave his dominions on a fixed day; it is sufficient that he is exonerated from the charge of maintaining them, and that the company find funds for their pay from the period stipulated: but if the orders above suggested, or some others to a similar effect, be not immediately issued, the sudden expiration of the stipulated time must create much confusion and difficulty, as the effectual accomplishment of this arrangement, in all its branches, will necessarily require time, and the provision of new funds and resources must become an object of your early consideration.

Excuse, my dear Sir, the freedom with which I have suggested the above points, as preparatives to the final execution of your engagements with the Vizier; and do me the justice to believe that I am actuated by no other motive than a sincere desire to save you embarrassment.

Major Naylor's compleat defeat of the rebels in the Goruckpore country has left Colonel Hannay without any apprehensions of danger to himself or detachment; but the country is yet in a very unsettled, disaffected state, and will, I fear, remain so until some severe examples have been made of the leading insurgents, which the circumstances of their local situation, their resources, and inaccessible retreats, may render both a difficult and a tedious operation.

I am, most respectfully, &c. &c.

(Signed) NATHANIEL MIDDLETON.

The Hon. Warren Hastings.

Digitized by Google

Lucknow, the 16th October 1781.

My dear Sir,

I have been duly honoured with the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, to which the usual and unavoidable delays of the Vizier's office prevented my giving you an earlier reply.

Inclosed I now do myself the pleasure to transmit you an address from his Excellency, assenting to the request I made to him on your behalf, in regard to the farm of Khyra Ghur, and a Shocka to Raja Meyhipnarrain on the same subject; the necessary orders having also been forwarded to the Fougedar of Allahabad, it remains only for the Raja to depute an officer to receive charge of the Purgunnah, which will be made over to him immediately on his arrival.

From the difficulties which the Nabob's ministers have heretofore experienced in realizing the rents of this farm, owing to the want of any effectual controul or authority over Cheyt Sing, his Excellency was secretly very averse to continuing it to his successor, and had, I have reason to believe, expedited the resumption of it on that account; but I must do him the justice to declare, he did not suffer this objection to have any weight in competition with your inclinations.

The Nabob's Shocka to Meyhipnarrain, is left open for your perusal.

I am, &c.

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings.

Lucknow, the 1st December 1781.

My dear Sir,

The account of the Jagheers, in the manner you desire it in your letter of the 21st ultimo, is by no means easy to make, with any degree of certainty, while they remain separated and distinct from the Mahls of the Sircar, as every Jagheerdar finds it too much his interest to conceal any excess of collections above the amount for which the lands are granted to him, to suffer an exact valuation to be taken, so long as he has the means of preventing it; but as the Jagheers will now either be re-annexed to the Khalsa lands, or made a separate Aumildarry, under the direction of a person of my own recommendation, it will not be difficult for me to obtain the informations you require, as their produce, whatever it may be, will be brought into the treasury, from whence those who are entitled to the mediation of the Company will receive their proportions in ready money. I have this day signified to the minister my expectation that the whole of the Jagheers be resumed, and their revenue, after paying to such of the proprietors as have

have a right to claim the mediation of our government, the amount of their Jagheers, be applied to the liquidation of the Nabob's debt to the Honourable Company. I ſhall be very glad if his Excellency conſents to make this meaſure an act of his own, as I conceive it would be more agreeable to you, and more conſiſtent with thoſe appearances which it may be thought expedient to preſerve with his Excellency; but if he declines it, as is by no means improbable, I ſhall think myſelf juſtified by your inſtructions in inſiſting on its being done even without his concurrence.

I expect to be informed of his Excellency's determination on this ſubject to-morrow, and ſhall loſe no time in taking my meaſures accordingly, and informing you thereof.

The miniſter informs me that Meyhipnarain has not yet ſent an Aumil to Khyragur, which cauſes great confuſion in that Purgunnah; may I therefore, my dear Sir, beg to be informed whether it is your intention to continue the farm under Meyhipnarain, or reſtore it to the authority of the Vizier?

I am, &c.

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

The Honourable Warren Haſtings.

Lucknow, the 5th December 1781.

My dear Sir,

THE incloſed letter from the Nabob, ſtating his ſituation relative to his claims to Furruckabad, I have had ſome days by me, waiting till I ſhould learn your final determination upon this point from Sir Elijah Impey; and having now received this, I ſhall look to nothing but the enforcement of your wiſhes, by bringing the Nabob to expect the recovery of his dues from Furruckabad from your interference alone. In the mean time I forward his letter, that you may be fully acquainted with his former ſituation in that reſpect.

I am, &c.

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

THE Nabob Vizier having appointed an Aumil to take charge of the Begum's Jaghiers, ſhe has, it appears, prepared a large body of troops, with a ſuppoſed deſign to reſiſt him. A violent and threatening letter, which I have juſt received from the Begum, would ſeem to leave no

 doubt

Digitized by Google

doubt of her intentions to support the already-declared licentiousness of her servants, in opposing the Nabob's orders; I have therefore been obliged to join my solicitation to the Vizier's, for obtaining a regiment from Colonel Morgan, to support the Aumil in the execution of his Excellency's commands; and I may add, that unless my judgment far misleads me, we shall be in want of still farther aid, before the measure of resuming the Jaghiers shall become fully established, and the country restored to that state of tranquility and subordination which it enjoyed before the contagion spread by Chyte Sing's machinations.

I enclose copy of my letter to Colonel Morgan, and have the honour to be, &c. &c.

Lucknow, the 19th Dec. 1781. NATH. MIDDLETON, Resident at the court of the Vizier.

(Copy.)

To Colonel Charles Morgan, commanding at Cawnpore.

Sir,

Inclosed I have the honour to transmit you a letter from the Nabob Vizier, requesting a regiment of native troops to assist the Aumil of Selon, &c. in establishing his authority, which is threatened to be violently disputed by an armed force. I must join my request to that of his Excellency's, as I am but too well assured of the great necessity there will be for a military force to re-establish a regular obedience to government in many parts of this country; if you will therefore please to order a regiment here, I will take care to procure proper instructions for the commanding officer.

Lucknow, 19th Dec. 1781. I have the honour, &c. NATH. MIDDLETON, Resident at the Vizier's court.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c.

Sir,

I have been honoured with the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant; and in obedience to your commands shall forward to you, by the first safe opportunity, your agreement with the Nabob Vizier, together with such other authentic papers as are connected with it; and have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, &c.

Lucknow, 22d Dec. 1781. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON, Resident at the Vizier's court.

Digitized by Google

Lucknow, the 26th December 1781.

My dear Sir,

I HAVE long been waiting with very great impatience for the arrival of Suftulla Cawn, who Sir Elijah Impey informed me you had dispatched to Lucknow, to adjust with me the account between the Vizier and Muzuffer Jung, and settle the future mode of payment of what might appear due from that Chief to his Excellency; but having heard of Suftulla's arrival at Furruckabad, and of his having, as he reports, by your authority, declared Muzuffer Jung exempted from all sort of dependence on the Vizier, I was unwilling to delay any longer the execution of your commands, and therefore pressed upon his Excellency and the ministers the necessity of an immediate compliance with your requisition for the recall of Almass Ally Cawn from Furruckabad, which has accordingly been done; and I have now the honour to enclose you translate of a letter addressed to me by his Excellency on the subject.

Permit me, my dear Sir, in this place, to suggest to you the necessity of your writing in very peremptory terms to the Nabob Muzuffer Jung, respecting the payment of his dues to this government, which I am more particularly anxious about, as the amount unavoidably has become a part of the funds assigned to the liquidation of the public annual claim upon the Vizier. As yet no security whatever has been offered for any part of the demand, nor any thing paid, although four months of the year are elapsed; and as neither his excellency or myself have now any means of exacting payment, I am very apprehensive that, without the immediate and vigorous exertion of your authority, very little, if any thing, will be got from Muzuffer Jung. On this point, as the claim is considerable, and the Nabob, at your requisition, has given up the means he formerly had of enforcing it, I could wish, on your authority, to give him some satisfactory assurance, which I hope you will enable me to do.

As I understand you interested yourself in the welfare of a person by the name of Hadjee Mahmood Caudry, who some time ago visited this court in his way to Delhy, I beg leave to enclose you an article of curious intelligence concerning him, which has been transmitted by Lutarefut Ally Cawn. I have not heard what has been, or is likely to be, the consequence of the Hadjee's manœuvre.

I shall, to-morrow, do myself the honour of addressing you officially respecting the Bhow Begum, whose conduct, on the intended resumption of her Jagheer, has removed the veil by which her real dispositions have long been covered, and seems to render what I should before have recommended

Digitized by Google

commended as a measure of prudence, at present an act of indispensable necessity—I mean depriving her of the power of doing mischief.

I am, &c.

NATH. MIDDLETON.

The Honourable W. Hastings.

From Lataufut Ally Khan to Nazir Collah Beg Khan, his Vakeel.

I have received the letters from the Nabob and Mr. Middleton respecting Hadjee Shaw Mahmood Kaudrie; also one from yourself, mentioning the same person. On his arrival, I lodged him at my house, furnishing him with every thing necessary, and introduced him to the King and Nabob Nezif Khan, also obtained for him a grant of two lacks of rupees. On his taking his leave, I secured to him the compliment of a doshawlah and shawl handkerchief from the King; likewise from Nabob Nezif Khan five trays, in which were two pair of doshawlahs, four pieces of shawls, one piece of kumbkaub, and two shawl handkerchiefs; notwithstanding which, he has been guilty of the fradulency of making out Sunnuds for the countries of Arcot and Hydernaig, in the name of Mahmud Ally Khan, under forged seals, promising to give the forged seal-cutter a thousand rupees, of which he paid only two hundred, withholding the balance, and proceeded to Desnah, distant from Dhelly sixteen coss. There were four accomplices in the forgery, one of whom was the seal-cutter, and received the two hundred rupees. One out of the four has turned informer, and made the Nabob Nezif Khan acquainted with the whole, who seized the three other people, and sent them to the King. There was three of the King's Kismutgars on whom the forged seals were found. The King tried the seals with his own hands on paper, when there was not to be perceived the smallest deviation on comparing with his own. The people are now in confinement. They say that the Hadjee promised them, that if they would make out the Sunnud for Arcot, and give it him, he would pay them ten thousand rupees; that, induced by this promised reward, and the Hadjee's persuasion, they have been guilty of this fraud. The King has directed Nazif Khan to apprehend the Hadjee, and take from him the forged Sunnud. In compliance therewith Nazif Khan has sent to Dornah.—Explain the whole of this affair to the Nabob Hyder Beg Khan and Mr. Middleton.

Digitized by Google

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c. &c.

Sir,

THE very great inconvenience, loſs, and indignities to which the Vizier has long been ſubject, from the authority and dominion aſſumed and exerciſed by the Jagheerdars with the ſupport of armed force, and the impoſſibility of ſtriking out any medium by which theſe evils could effectually be remedied, have induced his Excellency to reſume all the Jagheer and Maroſee lands throughout his country, promiſing to ſuch perſons as have juſt or equitable claims to his bounty, or thoſe guaranteed by the Company for the amount of their Jagheers, allowances in ready money equal to the net ſum they ſhall appear to have annually realized from their Jagheers.

This meaſure, the utility, and I may ſay the abſolute neceſſity, whereof will not be diſputed by any one who has had an opportunity of obſerving the conduct of the Jagheerdars in general, and particularly ſome whoſe incomes enabled them to maintain armies not only ſuperior to thoſe of the Aumils of the country, who ſhould properly be a check upon them, but even ſufficient to reſiſt the force of the ſtate itſelf, has met with violent oppoſition from the Bhow Begum, who falls particularly under the laſt deſcription, and whoſe power is rendered the more pernicious and dangerous, firſt, from its being wholly delegated to her ſervants, who have their own views of ambition and intereſt to anſwer, and in the next place from the reluctance with which the miniſters, and even the Nabob himſelf, interfere with any concerns of the Begum.

From theſe two circumſtances, ſtrengthened by the immenſe wealth in her poſſeſſion, alſo intruſted to her two chief Eunuchs, Bahar and Jowar Ally Cawn, and her unreaſonable expectations of ſupport from the Engliſh government, of all which ſhe and her ſervants avail themſelves to the utmoſt, ſhe is become one of the moſt ſerious internal evils that, among others, ſeems to bid fair to give great diſturbance to this country.

The great awe in which the Nabob, and of courſe every one under him, ſtands of her diſpleaſure, leaves without bounds or reſtraint the effects of her uncommonly violent temper. Death and deſtruction is the leaſt menace ſhe denounces, upon the moſt trifling oppoſition to her caprice.

By her own conduct, and that of all her agents and dependants during the Benares troubles, it may with truth and juſtice be affirmed, ſhe forfeited every claim ſhe had to the protection of the Engliſh government, as ſhe evidently, and it is confidently ſaid avowedly, eſpouſed the cauſe of Rajah

Digitized by Google

Rajah Cheyt Sing, and united in the idea and plan of a general extirpation of their race and power in Hindoftan.

Her agent at Taunda, who is the Cheyla, and adopted fon of Bahar Ally Cawn, her principal minifter, treacherously turned his guns upon Lieutenant Gordon's detachment, and was by that gentleman's account the fole caufe of the lofs of it. She gave every encouragement in her power to the adherents of Cheyt Sing by her agents; affifted them in raifing troops in the town of Fyzabad; promifed, and as is generally believed, actually advanced money to the rebellious Rajahs of the Vizier's country; raifed troops to fupport them, and iffued Perwannahs for their operations againft the forts garrifoned by the Nabob's troops under the command of Britifh officers; all of which is fully ftated in the depofitions made by Colonel Hannay and the gentlemen of his corps. Notwithftanding all thefe facts, upon the general refumption of the Jagheers I made the rents of her lands payable to me; under an engagement of making the amount good to her by fuch inftallments as fhe might direct, in return for which I have received letters from her, containing the moft grofs abufe and the wildeft threats that can be tranfcribed, copies of which I have the honour to enclofe.

Her chief agent, Bahar Ally Cawn, has marched a confiderable force into Nabob Gunge, one of her Jagheers, declaring that if any attempt is made to refume it, he will lay the whole country of Goonda wafte. Thefe declared and repeated acts of rebellion are furely more than fufficient to forfeit all claim whatever to the interference in her behalf from our government; and if fome ftop is not immediately put to it, it appears but too certain that fhe will light a flame throughout thefe provinces, which if not difficult to extinguifh will at leaft put a heavy bar to the Company's collections here. I cannot therefore avoid making thefe reprefentations to you, or doubt but you will approve of the Vizier's immediately taking thofe fteps which may be neceffary for effectually eftablifhing his government and authority, and depriving the Begum of thofe great refources which fhe has fhewn it would be extremely impolitic and unfafe to truft longer in her hands. On this fubject the Nabob has communicated to me his fentiments in a long letter, copy whereof I have the honour to enclofe you, in which you will obferve he fignifies his intention of profecuting his legal claims upon her for the public treafure and effects belonging to his inheritance from his father, which fhe detains from him, and fquanders in fuch deftructive purpofes, while he is overwhelmed by public debts, principally incurred by his predeceffor, and on account of his inability to difcharge which, the Company have indif-

spensably been driven to take upon themselves the burthen of a large military establishment hitherto entertained for their service at the charge of the Nabob.

On this head I think it unnecessary to offer any remark, since a reference to the established laws and customs of the country will sufficiently prove his Excellency's inheritant right to claim the property of his predecessor.

I must also take the liberty to add my opinion, that unless Fyzullah Cawn, remotely situated as he is, out of reach of interruption, in the centre of his own tribe and country, connected uninterruptedly with the other two remaining Patan powers, becomes included in this general reform of the Jagheer, or some effectual check imposed upon him, the whole may prove abortive, while, if fully enforced, may save this country, and with it possibly much of our own blood and treasure.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON,
27th Dec. 1781. Resident at the Vizier's court.

From the Bhowe Begum to the Resident.

The underwritten particulars have just come to my knowledge—that the Nabob's orders to Meer Mahboob Ally are arrived, directing the resumption of Nabob Gunge on the other side of the river, and Bene Gunge my Jagheer, and for him to take charge thereof; also that the charge of Pergunnah Salone, my Jagheer, is given to Meer Nazir Ally; every thing respecting myself is specified in your Caulnama. Hitherto no interference has taken place by any one; I am at a loss to account for the present measure. On what plea has the Nabob resumed my Jagheer, or what are his intentions? While you are resident, can such proceedings be admitted? Express your disapprobation, that it may not be carried into effect. Before, application was made through Moloie Fuzzle Azeem Khan to me, for Lowanah Talook, my Jagheer, when I wrote to Hussein Reza Khan, and Hyder Beg Khan, on the subject, who silenced Moloie Fuzzle Azeem Khan—but now the resumption of my Jagheer is resolved on.

The Jagheer is not grant of the Nabob, that he should resume it—let those who granted resume it. The Nabob has nothing to do with me. Let me have a speedy answer. Countermand the order to Meer Nazir Ally for the resumption of my Jagheer. The present state of matters is trifling, but the consequences shall be great.

Digitized by Google

From the Resident to the Bhowe Begum.

I have received your letter—recapitulated the contents—the Nabob has thought proper, on account of the inconveniences, loss, and indignities he sustains from the authority exercised by the Jagheerdars throughout the country, to resume all the Jagheers in his dominions, in which yours is necessarily included; but as the amount of your Jagheer is confirmed to you by a written agreement between you and the Nabob, and guaranteed by Mr. Bristow in behalf of the Governor General and Council, it will be made good to you in ready money. If you will therefore be pleased to transmit me an accurate account of the amount you realized from your several Jagheers, Gunges, Bazars, &c. as specified in the caulnama, after deducting the expences of collection, sebundee, and all other charges, I will pledge myself that the said sum shall be regularly remitted to you at such stated times, and in such proportions, as you shall prescribe:—as to any thing farther, his Excellency is master.

From the Bhowe Begum to Hussein Reza Khan.

I find that Meer Nazir Ally has been vested with charge of Pergunnah Salone, my Jagheer, which to me is unaccountable. From whence proceeds his Excellency's interference with my Jagheer? The Jagheer is not from his grant, that he should resume it; what his intentions may be, I am at a loss to form an idea of.—Note this, that if my Jaghire falls, the country shall not stand: remember this, and make the Nabob acquainted with it. It is not well that for a trifling matter much trouble should be occasioned.—Recall the Aumil, to whom the charge of the Jagheer of Salone has been given, if not, it will not be well done. Hitherto I have been silent and patient, but I cannot continue so longer. Whence this resolution for the resumption of my Jagheer? Let me have your answer speedily.

From the Bhowe Begum to the Resident.

The particulars I have written you, respecting my Jagheers, having arrived, will be read by you. The Nabob has sent Aumils to take charge of them. The Caulnâma under your seal is in my possession, in which all interference in my Jagheers is disclaimed, as well as all demands on me for money. Now the engagements of the Nabob are disregarded, although the English are at hand. I shall in ten days, the Mohrum being over, proceed to Lucknow, where, having fully explained and adjusted affairs,

Digitized by Google

fairs, I shall repair to wherever my will may direct. Your being at Lucknow will expedite the clearing and closing the affair. Let there be no interference with my Jagheer previous to my arrival at Lucknow, neither vexatiously interfere with my people. I am repairing to Lucknow; wherefore this precipitation? You are guarantee for the Caulnâma. Should the country be lost to me, it shall be lost to all. I give you this intimation—Note it.

From the Bhowe Begum to the Resident.

Having written to you particularly respecting my Jagheers, you are now acquainted therewith.—Now the Nabob's order to Meer Maboob Ally is arrived, directing the resumption of my Jagheers, Nabob Gunge, on the other side of the river and Bene Gunge, and their amount collections, to be paid into the treasury.—Whence this measure? You are acquainted with the purport of the Caulnâma, disclaiming all interference with my Jagheers, and by the blessing of God are at hand for my benefit. Yet am I astonished with this proceeding. The Jagheers are not granted by the Nabob, that he should resume them. What has he resolved against me? The consequences shall be extremities. There has been a friendship of long date subsisting between the English government and me. I understand Aumils for other of my Jagheers are in agitation. Interpose, and put a stop to such proceeding. Application was made before by Mooloie Fuzzle Azeem Khan, for Lowanah Talook, my Jagheer; on which I wrote to Hussein Reza Khan, and Hyder Beg Cawn, who explained the matter to the Moloie, and caused the matter to be dropped. Hussein Reza Khan and Hyder Beg Khan are my professed friends. The business I write to them on is effected. With them I am perfectly satisfied. I am now convinced this trouble is caused by Moloie Fuzzle Azeem Khan. Make known to him your displeasure at it, that this affair may be relinquished, forbidding him ever to enter on the subject of my Jagheers, to prevent any further interference of this kind therewith.

From the Resident to the Bhowe Begum.

I had the honour to reply to your former letter yesterday; to the contents of which I must beg leave to refer you, as far as relates to securing to you the actual income of your Jagheers, Gungees, Bazars, &c. as set forth in the Caulnâma subsisting between you and his Excellency the Nabob. I certainly am bound in duty to interfere, because the faith of the Governor General and Council, my masters, has been

Digitized by Google

been pledged to you for it; and I am ready, as I before informed you, to ſettle that point to your ſatisfaction; but as to continuing the lands, &c. in the form you have hitherto held them, his Excellency the Nabob is the maſter, and I cannot oppoſe his pleaſure. It behoves you to reflect well on this matter. I am equally the friend of you and your ſon the Nabob, and can have no prejudices in favour of one or the other. His Excellency declares, and I have myſelf ſeen too many proofs to doubt it, that the authority and dominion exerciſed by the Jagheerdars is extremely prejudicial to his revenue and government. A medium, therefore, being propoſed, by which you loſe nothing, and his Excellency gains ſo much, I ſhould you would not continue to reject it, ſince it is unqueſtionably the ſame to you, whether you receive the income of your Jagheer through the channel of an Aumil appointed under the Nabob's authority, or from the hands of your own immediate agent. For the regular remittance of whatever net income you may heretofore have received from your Jagheers, I willingly make myſelf reſponſible; but I again repeat, that in all other reſpects the Nabob is maſter.—What more ſhall I ſay?

From the Bhowe Begum to the Reſident.

I underſtand, from Huſſein Reza Khan, that he has ſpoke to you concerning my Jagheers, and that you in reply ſhould ſay that the Nabob's ſending Aumils into my Jagheers was not of any conſequence or prejudice. If theſe are your ſentiments, I cannot but be much aſtoniſhed. Had any other perſon expreſſed ſuch, I ſhould not have felt it, but imputed them to his ignorance. Since I heard that you ſhould have declared ſuch as the above, I have been in deſpair, as I cannot think the country any longer proper for my remaining in it, as thoſe who bound themſelves by engagements now diſregard them. After the Mohrum is paſt, I ſhall repair to Lucknow, and take my leave of it to ſojourn elſewhere, as neceſſitated by the gentlemen at Lucknow, and as my inclinations once led me, and is now God's decree; though, ſhould I be neceſſitated to quit the country, God grant that no ſoul may be able to remain in it in peace. The power of exiſtence reſts not with you, but God. You are a ruler of the country, and can take to yourſelf the Jagheers of others. Many are involved in diſtreſs. Pride is not commendable; it is not countenanced by God. How long is to be the period of your reign? Infamy is your due. The countries of Puttaghur, Owde, &c. yield four crore of rupees; if they are not ſufficient to ſatisfy you, what can my Jagheers contribute towards it? And why, without my knowledge, ſhould Aumils be ſent into them?

If

Digitized by Google

If you mean to proceed in this mode, send Aumils into Nezif Khan's country, &c. and try the consequences. While I do remain in the country recall the Aumils from my Jagheers. Why so precipitate? Be assured I shall with expedition take my departure.

From the Resident to the Bhowe Begum.

A person assuming your name has just arrived here, with a letter under your seal, addressed to me; but as I cannot believe, either from the subject matter or the stile, that it can have been dictated by you, or written with your knowledge, I enclose a copy of it, that you may detect the forgery, and inflict a proper exemplary punishment on the person who shall have dared thus to abuse your confidence, and insult me.

From the Nabob Vizier to the Resident.

I have received your letter, covering copies of letters from my mother to yourself—recapitulated the contents.—She says her Jagheers were not granted by me. At the time of the late Nabob's death these Mahls were under the charge of Jowaur Ally Khan, on the footing of other Aumils, insomuch that the accounts, &c. were lodged in the Dewan's office; these accounts, as they were delivered in the Dewan's office to the date of the Nabob's death, are forthcoming. After his death, I, as a dutiful son, made over these Mahls to her in Jagheer, that it could not be said I left my mother unprovided. The business and Mhals of the Khalsa suffer considerably, and are much prejudiced by the authority and conduct of the Aumils of these Jagheers, Mahls, as also from the insolence of the household Khajahs; witness the conduct of Bhar Ally Khan's Naibat Tondah. My life, estate, and dominions originate from the friendship of the English government. Yet what knavery have not these household Khajahs been guilty of. As therefore it is not prudent that these Mahls should be continued in the charge of my mother, or household Khajahs, I have appointed my own Aumils—receive the amount arising from these Mhals, and pay it to my mother, after deducting the charges of collections, &c. absolute charges. I am ready to acquiesce in any thing for my mother. As for the other parts of her letters, I trust in God they are dictated by the household Kajahs; and that I have not caused shame to myself from my conduct to God or my mother. After the death of my father, whatever was due from him to the Company, also to the troops, I took upon myself; but whatever effects there were remained with my mother.

Digitized by Google

mother. Some time ſince ſhe gave ſome part to me, but it went no way in the diſcharge of the claims of the Company or troops. For theſe many years I have endured much inconvenience and trouble for the diſcharge of theſe; yet half is not made good, and I am in daily anxiety on this account, from a deſire to diſcharge all juſt dues to the Company. It is my intention to proceed to Fyzabad in ten days, the Mohrum being over, when I mean to requeſt of my mother the whole of my father's eſtate, to enable me to pay off all debts to the Company. Agreeable to the laws of God, all my father's effects are my right, that I may make good all claims on him. If my mother, from affection, conſents, I ſhall be happy; if not, in whatever manner ſhe may render it, I ſhall pay it towards the adjuſtment of the balance due to the Company. With reſpect to the houſehold Khajahs, I ſhall confine and puniſh them, for the knavery and means they have uſed towards effecting a breach between my mother and myſelf. You will in friendſhip cauſe this letter to be tranſlated into Engliſh, and ſend it immediately to the governor, deſiring him not liſten to any one, or what my mother may write, neither adopt her opinion, but direct me to receive money from her, towards the payment of the Company's demands. I am ready to defray and allow her for her expences—with reſpect to the amount collections of her Jagheers, after deducting all neceſſary charges of collection; you may receive and tranſmit it to her.

Lucknow, the 28th December, 1781.

My dear Sir,

I am this day honoured with your public letter of the 24th inſtant; and I do not loſe a moment in informing you, that without a total ſeizure of the country it is not poſſible to collect this year a larger ſum than the Nabob has already granted, which altogether exceeds that of any other year, at a time when his collections have been greatly diminiſhed by the miſconduct of Raja Bowanny Sing, late Aumil of Bycewarrah, the inſurrections acroſs the Gogra, and in other parts of his country, and laſtly the heavy remiſſions he has been obliged to allow on the preſent year's rents, for the loſſes by drought and hail, which fell upon the cloſe of the laſt harveſt. Hence, my dear Sir, you will be able to judge how far it would be in his power to grant further Jaidads.

If your new demand is to be inſiſted upon, which your letter ſeems to portend, I muſt beg your preciſe orders upon it; as, from the difficulties I have within theſe few days experienced, in carrying the points you had enjoined with the

Nabob,

Digitized by Google

Nabob, I have the best grounds for believing that he would consider it a direct breach of the late agreement, and totally reject the proposal as such; and I must own to you, that, in his present fermented state of mind, I could expect nothing less than despair, and a declared rupture.

He has by no means been yet able to furnish me with means of paying off the arrears due to the temporary brigade, to the stipulated term of its continuance in his service. The funds necessary for paying off and discharging his own military establishment under British officers, and his pension list, have been raised on the private credit of Mr. Johnson and myself, from the Shroffs of this place, to whom we are at this moment pledged for many lacks of rupees; and without such aid, which I freely and at all hazards yielded, because I conceived it was your anxious desire to relieve the Nabob as soon as possible of this heavy burthen, the establishment must have been at his charge to this time, and probably for months to come, while his resources were strained to the utmost to furnish Jaidâds for its maintenance to this period. I therefore hesitate not to declare it utterly impossible for him, under any circumstances whatever, to provide funds for the payment of the troops you now propose to send him.

The wresting Furruckabad, Kyrague, and Fyzula Cawn's country from his government (for in that light, my dear Sir, I can faithfully assure you he views the measures adopted in respect to those countries) together with the resumption of all the Jagheers, so much against his inclination, have already brought the Nabob to persuasion, that nothing less than his destruction, or the annihilation of every shadow of his power, is meant; and all my labours to convince him to the contrary have proved abortive. A settled melancholy has seized him, and his health reduced beyond conception; and I do most solemnly believe, that the march of four regiments of Sepoys towards Lucknow, under whatever circumstances it might be represented, would be considered by him as a force ultimately to be used in securing his person. In short, my dear Sir, it is a matter of such immediate moment, and involving apparently such very serious and important consequences, that I have not only taken upon me to suspend the communication of it to the Nabob, until I should be honoured with your further commands, but have also ventured to write the inclosed letter to Colonel Morgan—Liberties which I confidently trust you will excuse, when you consider that I can be actuated by no other motive than a zeal for the public service; and that if, after all, you determine that the measure shall be insisted on, it will be only the loss of six, or at most eight days, in proposing it. But in the last event, I earnestly

Digitized by Google

earnestly intreat your orders may be explicit and positive, that I may clearly know what lengths you would wish me to proceed, in carrying them into execution. I again declare it as my firm belief, and assure yourself, my dear Mr. Hastings, I am not influenced in this declaration by any considerations but my public duty, and my personal attachment to you, that the enforcing the measure you have proposed would be productive of an open rupture between us and the Nabob; nay, that the first necessary step towards carrying it into effect, must be on our part a declaration of hostility.

There can, I apprehend, be no doubt but such an extremity would end in the ruin of the Nabob, and I think he would have sense enough to see it; but, under the circumstances I have mentioned, and encouraged as he would be by all the malecontents of his court, I am persuaded, as far as my own reason and judgment enable me to predict, that he would disregard all future consequences.

I entreat you will excuse the freedom with which I have addressed you on this subject. I have been obliged to write in great haste, to save the dauk, and consequently not so connectedly or fully as I could wish; but be assured I have given you the genuine sentiments of my heart; and as such I am persuaded you will receive them with indulgence.

I am, &c. &c.

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

To Colonel James Morgan, commanding in the Field.

Sir, (Copy.)

I was last night honoured with your letter, informing me that you had orders from the Governor General to furnish me with more troops, should I want them.

I have this day received information from the governor, that he has ordered a large force to repair to Lucknow. If you have received such an order, I must beg you will suspend the order until I have received the governor's reply to the representation I have made to him on this subject, as such a movement at this juncture might be productive of the most serious consequences. While I make this application to you, I do not know how far it is in your power to comply; yet I deem it my duty to make the representation, whatever the result may be.

Lucknow, I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

28th Dec. 1781. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

My dear Sir,

Upon re-perusing the translate of the Nabob's letter to me, respecting the Furruckabad business, I find a capital mistake was made in the statement of the sum due from Muzuffer

Digitized by Google

Muzuffer Jung. I beg leave therefore to inclose you a memorandum to rectify it.

Lucknow, I am, &c. &c.
29th Dec. 1781. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.
The Honourable Warren Hastings.

Memorandum:

The sum of 1,58,456 rupees, mentioned in the translate of a letter from the Nabob Vizier to the Resident, as due from Motzuffer Jung, should have been 7,58,456. This mistake was made in copying fair from the Translate.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c.

Sir,

I have herewith the honour to submit to you an account of my current claims, for the present year, upon the Nabob Vizier, amounting to Rs 70,99,882, for which amount I have received assignments, as per the enclosed list, for Rs 76,38,114, in which I have been necessitated to include the Nabob's demand for the current year upon Furruckabad; and as his Excellency has now totally withdrawn his Sizawal from the collection of it, as well as every interference whatever, I beg I may be honoured with your instructions, whether Muzuffer Jung is to pay the amount at the presidency, or, as usual, to me: Khyragur is in the same predicament, the Vizier having no authority over the present Aumil.

The rest I have little doubt of receiving, for the large balance now due from the Nabob I am given strong hopes of receiving assets from the funds expected by the recovery of the Nabob's paternal estate, hitherto withheld by his mother, but which he has now demanded. The result is yet in suspense; as soon as any certainty of the grounds of this expectation can be determined, and may come to my knowledge, I shall not fail to impart it to you.

The new regulation, of resuming the Jagheers, is carrying into execution in every part of these extensive provinces, and when effected, will afford a very material encrease in the Nabob's revenues.

The order of 7 lacks upon them could not be encreased this year, as before the seizure can be completed, the collections upon the first crop will be over; besides which, many of the Jagheerdars having strong family claims upon the Nabob, he has been obliged to assign ready money payment in lieu of the rents of the lands.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

Lucknow, NATH. MIDDLETON.
the 31st Dec. 1781. Rest at the Court of the Vizier.

ASSIGNMENTS received for the Year 1189, on the following Districts.

Rohilcund — — —	31,00,000
Corah, Doaub, &c. — —	12,00,000
Furruckabad — — —	7,58,114
Jagheers — — —	7,00,000
Bahrach and Gorruckpore — —	6,50,000
Goondá — — —	3,50,000
Allahabad — — —	4,35,000
Kyragur — — —	1,95,000
Azimgur — — —	1,30,000
Sundula Milliabad — —	1,20,000
	76,38,114

NATH. MIDDLETON,
Rest at the Court of the Vizier.

LIST of current Claims upon the Nabob, for the Year 1189.

Balances due to the paymasters, as per their respective statements for 1188 —	14,88,304
Two months pay (as per stipulation) to Mr. Wombwell's office. — —	3,00,000
Two and half months pay to the temporary brigade and cavalry — —	7,50,000
Subsidy — — —	31,20,000
Extra regiment, as per agreement, at 25,000 Rs per month, for ten months —	2,50,000
Abdulreheman Khan — —	3,30,000
Sadidit Ally — —	3,00,000
Rohillas — — —	61,578
Claims of Mr. Frazer, Mr. Marsack, &c.	5,00,000
	70,99,882

NATHANIEL MIDDLETON,
Rest at the Court of the Vizier.

To Nathaniel Middleton, Esqr.

Sir, Benares, 1st January 1782.

I have been deceived, I know not yet by whom. The agreement which I concluded with the Vizier has yet served only to gratify revenge, or some concealed interest, and to make me odious to my own countrymen.

The temporary brigade is withdrawn, and its expence thrown on the Company, without any equivalent.

The

The English officers and pensioners dismissed.

The English Resident withdrawn from Furruckabad, to give place to a worse tyranny, and the Nabob afflicted and offended at my opposition to the latter.

The Nabob afflicted and desponding because I oppose his invading Fyzoolla Cawn, when he is confessedly unable to suppress the sedition of his own subjects.

The resumption of the Jaghiers, withheld for three months, now attempted against the Nabob's consent, although originally solicited by himself; a regiment of sepoys required for its execution, which you declare to be insufficient; and when I ordered a competent force, you countermand it, because the Nabob *will* not approve it.

It was stipulated, that a complete brigade should be stationed at Cawnpore, for the protection of the Nabob's paternal dominions; but that if he wanted a further aid, he should pay for it. He wants a further aid; I require that it shall be charged to his account; you tell me, that though it is wanted, you dare not let it come; and Mr. Johnson calls it "ordering the temporary brigade to be again put on the "Vizier's list."

I wait your answer to my letter; but have written a letter to the Nabob, which I desire you to present to him, and tell him, that if he suspects the motive of my interference, I will withdraw it altogether, both the Resident and the army; but he must first pay the balance of his debts to the Company. I will not hazard the Company's arms in scanty detachments, for services to which they are declared to be unequal; nor will I break the strength of the brigade while the Marrattas are yet on the borders, and the peace with them imperfectly concluded.

I agreed to the Nabob's requisitions from a desire to relieve him from a state of distress, and to enable him to discharge his debt to the Company. You know these were my only objects: have either of these been attained; or has any step been yet taken to attain them? If you say they have, let me know what has been done, or what attempted.

I must desire, that your letters, upon all official and public subjects, may be official. I cannot receive any, or avail myself of them, as private; and my reputation and character have been too far committed to admit of an intercourse which I cannot use as authority.

You will be cautious that the Nabob does not misconceive my letters as bearing any expression of displeasure towards him. I think him too deceived. I wish him to regard me as his friend, and to confide both in my faith and attachment. I am willing to give him undoubted proofs of both. I will do nothing for the preservation of his interests against his will; but I will not hazard the

Digitized by Google

safety and honour of our arms, nor sacrifice the Company's interests and rights to the caprice of his advisers.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.
(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.

To Mr. Middleton.

Sir, Benares, 2d Jan. 1782.

I have received your letters of the 30th December, and shall reply to them fully. It has afforded some relief to the anxiety which I have felt. If you have not already declared to the Nabob the explanation which I desired you to give him, of the sentiments expressed in my letter, I desire you to defer it till you hear further from me. In the mean time you may assure him, that whatever is written in the agreement concluded between us at Chunar shall be literally and firmly observed on my part. I shall immediately compare it, for that purpose, with the measures now under consideration.

I am, &c. &c.
(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.

To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire.

Sir, Benares, 3d Jan. 1782.

I have already acknowledged the receipt of your letter of the 30th, and am determined, by the assurances and promise made to me in it, to return to Calcutta, and shall leave to you the charge and execution of the measures necessary to the execution of the agreement concluded between the Nabob Vizier and myself in September last.

Willing as I am to trust to your declarations, I cannot avoid yielding to the doubts suggested by the inconsistencies of your representations of their grounds. You, in a former letter told me that the Nabob had required the assistance of a regiment of Sepoys to enforce the resumption of the Jagheers, but that it was your opinion that a much larger force would be required for it, as a powerful opposition was prepared against it: I in consequence ordered a strong detachment to perform this service; you then wrote that the Nabob would not allow it, that you durst not communicate it to him, that you knew he would even oppose it by force, and that the payment of the detachment would be a breach of treaty; and now you write, that the Nabob's Sebundy alone are equal to this service, and that it will be but a fortnight's work to accomplish it. These are absolute contradictions.

But I am most affected by your declaring, that you did not understand it to have been my intention that the refor-

mation

mation of the Nabob's military establishment should take place this year; and that nothing has been done in the new settlement of the revenue, for the same reason.

These are fresh instances of what I have had too frequent cause to complain of, your total inattention to my instructions. The like inattention is manifested in a former letter, in which you tell me that you did not know that I expected a present supply to the Company's treasury.

In my instructions I premise, as a matter well known to yourself, "that the chief object of my negociation has "been to induce and assist the Nabob to bring his govern-"ment and finances into regularity, as to prevent his "alliance being a clog to the Company, *and to enable him "to discharge his debt to the Company in the shortest time "possible.*"

It adds, "I shall expect that the whole of the excess "(of the Jagheers beyond the estimated amount) be appro-"priated to the discharge of the Nabob's debt to the "Company."

The order in which the measures necessary to the execution of the agreement shall be taken is prescribed in the following words:

"*After settling* the amount of the personal disbursements "of the Nabob Vizier and his household, *the next point* "that will require your exertions, towards the general "arrangements of the public charges, is the reform of the "established and Muttaiena troops, &c. &c.

The only point which is left for future adjustment is the establishment of the courts of justice.

The reformation of the Nabob's troops, I considered as a point which neither required nor admitted delay—that his Muttaiena troops were almost wholly fictitious, and his regular establishment scanty in numbers, and in long arrears. And I considered and stated this reformation as one of the means of reducing the Nabob's expences, and enabling him to pay his debts to the Company.

I have clearly explained my intention to be, that the first receipt of the current revenue should furnish the stipulated amount of the Nabob's private expences; that his assignments for the Company's debt, and other charges defrayed by them, should remain as usual; and that the whole of the excesses of the Jagheers should be appropriated to the same account: I require no more; nor can I add either explanation or comment on the instructions which have been originally given to you, that can more clearly express, or more fully, than the words of the original text.

I have carefully perused the agreement itself, and the former treaties existing with the Nabob Vizier, but can find no clause in any of them which either expresly or by implica-

tion

tion gives him a right to employ the Company's forces, except those of the subsidiary brigade, without indemnifying the Company for their expences. The brigade itself is expressly declared to be for the defence of his dominions, and therefore has always been stationed on the frontier nearest to invasion. It was never intended that its strength should be dissipated in little detachments, and its dicipline ruined by employing it to suppress the insurrections of his Reiats, and to enforce the payment of the collections, although a discretionary power has been given to you, in cases of great emergency, to call for the aid of detachments from it for the former services. And you know, that had our other exigencies permitted it, it was intended to remand the whole of Sir John Cumming's detachment to Bengal, and to leave no more than the subsidiary brigade, and the regiment appointed for Lucknow, in the Vizier's dominions. If the opposition proposed by the Begum is so formidable as you represented it when you first intimated it to me, your employment of the Nabob's Sebundy to suppress it would only serve to make it a serious and protracted war; which my order was intended to prevent, by suppressing all attempts instantaneously. I shall now revoke my orders; but I must positively forbid you to employ the aid of the regiment, which has been required and sent, on any service to which you shall judge it not fully equal. This is no part of the agreement.

I meet with a captious expression in your letter, which, as it is not warranted by any in mine, I deem unbecoming.

Alluding to Sir John Cumming's detachment, you desire "my determination on the future payment of the troops, "which I may still think necessary to keep up to *regulate* "*the Nabob's internal government.*"

It is not my intention, nor ever was, to keep up troops to *regulate the Nabob's internal government*, but solely to defend his country against invaders, unless he should require occasional and temporary aids to restore internal peace and order to it, to enable him to acquit himself of his debt to the company, and thereby recover the whole and unparticipated regulation of his internal government. If he conceives my design to be any other than this, it is now your duty to undeceive him.

I now refer you back to the agreement concluded by me with the Nabob, and my instructions delivered in consequence of it. These are to be your sole guide; nor do I mean by any thing which I have since written, whether in this or any former letter, to revoke or change a tittle of what is written in them. On these I ground the whole of your present responsibility, except what I have written con-

cerning

Digitized by Google

cerning the additional claims made on the Begums, and which I consider a virtual part of my formal instructions.

I am, &c. &c.

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.

To the Hon. Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you, that the Nabob marched to Fayzabad on the 1st instant, and that I follow him, conformably to your orders, to-morrow morning, having yesterday ordered away the 8th regiment to be ready to arrive with me on the 6th instant at Fayzabad. The 20th regiment, under the command of Major Martin Gilpin, which was detached some days ago from Cawnpore to enforce the Vizier's order for the resumption of the Begum's Jagheer, I have thought it necessary to station at Lucknow, in lieu of the 8th regiment, until my return from Fayzabad, when I shall be better able to judge how far, and what force it may be necessary to employ against the agents of the Begum, who I understand have all received the most positive injunctions to oppose, by every means in their power, the execution of the Vizier's orders respecting the Jagheers.

I have the honour, &c. &c.

Lucknow, (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON,
the 3d Jan. 1782. Resident at the Court of the Vizier.

To the Hon. Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c.

Sir,

I arrived with the Nabob at Fayzabad two days ago, and his Excellency has made his demand upon the Bhow Begum; but nothing final or decisive having yet taken place, I defer writing fully or entering on the subject until to-morrow, when I hope to be able to do it with some certainty as to the result.

I was honoured with your letter of the 1st instant on the road, as also your subsequent commands of the 2d and 3d, to which I shall pay the most submissive obedience; and at present trouble you with no other observations on the points they contain, excepting a paragraph in the first, to which it is indispensably incumbent on me immediately to reply, lest an accusation it implies, though not absolutely applied, nor, I am persuaded, meant to be imputed to me, should by any misrepresentation or misconstruction be attempted to be forced upon you against me.

I do not know that any other gentleman than Mr. Johnson and myself were employed between you and the Nabob in the agreement you concluded with his Excellency at Chunar;

Digitized by Google

Chunar; we therefore jointly subscribe to the following attestation, which we shall be ready at any time to confirm by a more formal oath if desired.

"We do most solemnly declare before God, and upon "our honours, that we never have, either of us, in fact "or idea, received, or been tendered or promised, directly "or indirectly, any benefit whatsoever, by any person "living, in consideration of any one or the whole of the "articles specified or contained in the agreement conclud- "ed between you and the Nabob Vizier of the 19th Sep- "tember last."

"NATH. MIDDLETON,
"R. JOHNSON."

If the above solemn asseveration can have effect in counteracting any misrepresentations, which it is possible may have been made or suggested to you on this subject, we chearfully and voluntarily offer it.

I have the honour, &c.

Fyzabad, 10th Jan. 1782.

NATH. MIDDLETON,
Resident at the court of the Vizier.

P. S.

Your letter of the 31st ultimo, through your military secretary, I can return no answer to, as I am utterly unable to express what I feel and have felt upon it. I enclose a copy of it, still willing to indulge a flattering hope, that, upon re-perusal, it may appear to you more severe than my conscience tells me my conduct in the instance alluded to has merited.

I have the honour to be, &c.
NATH. MIDDLETON.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c.

Sir,

I was this day honoured with your commands of the 10th instant, informing me of the military station you have established at Juanpore, with the liberty you grant the Nabob Vizier of claiming their aid to quell any disturbances in the adjacent parts of his provinces. I have accordingly communicated it to his Excellency, who with great justice was highly pleased with the disposition, as in truth the districts bordering upon the Zemindary of Benares have for a long period of time been of all others the most turbulent and disaffected, and nothing less than the arrangement you have now formed could effectually secure the peace and tranquility in that neighbourhood, so essential to the prosperity of the Nabob's government and revenues.

With

Digitized by Google

With respect to the business here, I have the honour to inform you, that yesterday finding that the temporizing and indecisive conduct of the Nabob seemed to promise an issue very different from that expected in your commands of the 26th December last, and that the only use the two leading Eunuchs under the Bhow Begum made of the delay, was to assemble and call in armed men from all quarters, which when united with the large force already in the town under their direction, would, in all probability, have brought the matter to a much more severe and arduous test than it at present could admit of—I found myself necessitated to take the most immediate and decisive interference which the force with me was capable of; and accordingly, having the Nabob's written requisition, marched the 23d regiment, under the command of Major Naylor, with a detachment of his Excellency's own troops, against the Kella: and had the happiness to succeed in putting the Nabob's party in possession of it without any effusion of blood; the armed men retiring from it on the approach of our troops, and drawing up with their guns in a large broad street before the house of the old Begum, to which the Bhow Begum and her two principal Eunuchs had retired the preceding evening. This effected, the Nabob issued his peremptory orders for the immediate departure of all armed men, excepting his own troops, beyond the precincts of the town, threatening them with an instant attack if they disobeyed. This order, after many evasions, was promised to be complied with, and the two Eunuchs, Bahr and Jowar Ally Cawn, at the same time coming in, and delivering themselves into the Nabob's custody, the armed men, amounting to between three and four thousand, evacuated the town and dispersed. I have since learnt, that had the Nabob's troops alone attempted the seizure of the Kella, a very desperate resistance was resolved upon; which appeared very probable from the state in which the armed men was found, being the preceding evening furnished with a large store of ammunition, and now drawn up in regular order, with loaded pieces, and their matches lighted; but they were prudent enough to think themselves unequal to the united efforts of his Excellency's troops, supported by an English regiment, and by this conviction much mischief has happily been prevented.

To-morrow I hope to be able to inform you of the effect of the present advantageous situation, and in the mean time have the honour to remain,

&c. &c.

Fayzabad, 13th Jan. 1782.

NATH. MIDDLETON, Resident at the court of the Vizier,

P. S.

P. S.

I have the honour to enclose you a letter from the Vizier, in reply to your last to his Excellency.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I WAS duly honoured with your commands of the 12th and 22d December last; the former respecting a seizure which has been made by Khoja Bahr Ally Cawn of some cloths, manufactured at Tanda, on account of Gualdass and Bolanaut, merchants at Benares, under pretext of their being the property of Ram Laulla, whom he had confined on a charge of debt; and the latter recommending Gopaul Doss in particular terms for his services to our government, and the punctuality with which he has acquittted himself of all his engagements and transactions with it. To this, Sir, be assured, I shall pay the most attentive regard, and always give his house that preference to which it has so just a claim, in all remittances which may pass through my office.

I immediately, on my arrival at Fayzabad, made a strict enquiry into the complaint of the above-mentioned seizure; and finding, from a variety of evidence, the fact precisely as it had been stated to you, I caused the cloths to be released, and delivered over to the Gumastah of Gualdass and Bolanaut, who attended here for that purpose.

It having also been intimated to me, that Ram Laulla, a Shroft, and relation of Gopaul Doss, had been imprisoned by Bahr Ally Cawn, on pretences equally vague and unjust (which I had reason to believe was the case, from my having failed in my endeavours to procure his enlargement, near a twelvemonth ago, although solicited on an offer of the security of Gopaul Doss, and my own, if desired, for the payment of whatever sum should appear due from him on an adjustment of their accounts) I determined also to take this opportunity of enquiring into that matter, and procuring the man justice; for which purpose I applied to Bahr Ally Cawn to send him to me, and repeated the offer of security which I had before made; he however thought proper to decline, or rather evade, compliance with my demand, and, to testify his resentment at the application made for my interference, he instantly doubled the guard on his prisoners, dispatched an escort to bring his family from Tanda, and by every means in his power increased the rigour of his confinement. In this situation he remained until the day after the seizure of Bahr and Jowar Ally Cawn, when he was brought to me by my own people, loaded with irons; which I had immediately taken off, and, setting him at

Digitized by Google

at large, have desired him to deliver me a statement of his account with Bahr Ally Cawn, which I shall take care to see equitably adjusted.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Fyzabad, NATH. MIDDLETON,
15th Jan. 1782. Resident at the court of the Vizier.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I have been honoured with your commands of the 8th and 14th instant; and in reply to the first have to inform you, that having represented to the Nabob the improper treatment which Dewanjee Punt met with from the officers of government at Allahabad, on his way to you, strict orders have been issued to the Phougedar of that province to prevent any impediment or molestation to him on his return to the Deekan; and I also, in obedience to your commands, signified to the Nabob's ministers your sentiments and disapprobation of a conduct which reflected so much disgrace on his Excellency's government. Their reply was, That the washing duties, or tax levied upon all persons coming to bathe at the conflux of the rivers Ganges and Jumma, has long been an established thing, and at present forms a considerable article of revenue in the Tohud of the farmer of Allahabad; that it shall be their care to prevent, as much as possible, any abuse of this privilege during the remainder of the current year, and at the period of the new annual settlement to abolish it altogether, if it is your wish that it should not exist.

I had the honour to address you under date the 13th instant, inclosing you the letter from his Excellency the Vizier, for which you inform me you are waiting, and acquainting you with the measures which had been taken here towards accomplishing the object of your commands. I have hitherto withheld any farther communication, in the expectation of shortly being able to inform you, with certainty, what would be the issue of our proceedings; a subject on which I have been extremely unwilling to touch, until I could do it on such grounds as could not mislead your hopes or expectations: until yesterday the business was in no form that could enable me to pronounce, or even conjecture, what would be the result.

It very early appeared, that the Begum, with the assistance of her Cojahs, had disposed of and secreted her wealth in such a manner as to elude almost the possibility of obtaining possession of it by mere force of arms; and whatever rigourous measures it might be proper for the Nabob ultimately to adopt, it seemed, at all events, in the first instance highly

expedient

Digitized by Google

expedient that we should pursue the course which promised, with the greatest certainty, the accomplishment of his first object, in which the interests of the company, and your desires, were too much concerned for me to hesitate a moment in giving my concurrence to a temporary forbearance, which I had reason to believe was the most adviseable, and if it did not succeed, could be attended in the issue with no worse effect than a few days delay in closing the business.

Your letter to the Begum, which I had the honour to receive and forward to her yesterday, having destroyed a reliance, which, notwithstanding the part I have avowed and acted with respect to her, she probably placed in the support and mediation of our government, has given a very favourable turn to the business, and afforded me a well-grounded hope that in one or two days more I shall be able to inform you of a satisfactory conclusion of it.

I have the honour, &c.

Fayzabad, 18th Jan. 1782.

NATH. MIDDLETON, Resident at the court of the Vizier.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

The Begum having finally agreed to surrender to the Nabob the treasures of his late father the Nabob Shujah ul Dowlah, which she had hitherto retained in her possession, his Excellency desired me to withdraw the troops from the Kella, that the Begum might return into it in order to deliver the treasure—to this I consented, as also to the re-delivery to the Nabob of the two Eunuchs Bhar and Jowar Ally Cawn, without whose presence and assistance nothing could be effected, as they were the only agents employed by the Begum in the secreting and depositing it; they previously pledging themselves to be present, when called upon, to answer to the accusation which I have informed them was laid against them. In the mean while, the Begum has delivered over her Chelah, Shumsheen Khan, who was Phousdar of Tanda when Captain Gordon arrived there.—So that I now hope the whole business upon which I came here is in the most favourable train.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Fayzabad, 20th Jan. 1782.

NATH. MIDDLETON, Resident at the Vizier's court.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I had the honour to address you, under date the 25th instant, acquainting you of the Vizier's having, from the treasure

Digitized by Google

treasure delivered up to him by the Bhow Begum, commenced on the payment of his debt to the Honourable Company. I have now the pleasure to inform you, that I am this day in possession of a sum equal to the liquidation of his bond for the balance of 1187; and he further gives me hopes, that he shall be able shortly to begin payment of the 12 lacks due for the balance of 1188, of which I shall in due course give you information.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Fayzabad, 27th Jan. 1782. NATH. MIDDLETON, Resident at the court of the Vizier.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I had the honour to address you yesterday; and this morning I was favoured with your commands of the 27th ultimo.

You are already apprized, by my address of yesterday, and my preceding letters, of the promised issue of the business at Fayzabad, as well as of the state in which I left it; both which I hope will be satisfactory, as they seem to leave the matter in that state of suspence which you wish it to remain, until the Board or yourself should have been advised of the amount of the treasure recovered from the Begums, and signified your further pleasure.

The Nabob has concluded no settlement whatever with the Begums, but left Fayzabad some hours before me, without taking leave of them, upon their agents having agreed to compleat the 55 lacks, which appeared due to the company upon the closing of my accounts for the last year, and the Begums declaring that this was the extent of all their possessions, including down to their table utensils, which they have, and are still delivering, and no proof has yet been obtained of their having more. I shall, as you direct, use my influence to dissuade his Excellency from concluding any settlement until I have your further commands.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, 6th Feb. 1782. NATH. MIDDLETON, Resident at the court of the Vizier.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I had the honour to address you, under date the 6th instant, informing you of the state in which I had left the business at Fayzabad, and the hopes I entertained of a speedy completion of it; permit me now to acquaint you, that, of the remaining balance engaged to be made good by the two Eunuchs

Digitized by Google

Eunuchs Bahr and Jowar Ally Cawn, I have this day had advice of the receipt of between five and six lacks, which is now on the way to Lucknow; and the residue I have every reason to believe will be realized before this letter reaches your hands: so that I have now to repeat my request, that I may as soon as possible be honoured with your final commands respecting the conduct it is your wish should be pursued with the Begum and her Eunuchs.

The services of Major Naylor's regiment being required to the eastward of the river Gogra, as well to support the authority of the Nabob's government in that quarter, as to be ready to join in the plan of operations which may be determined on, in obedience to your commands, against Futty Saw, I have sent one battalion of Major Gilpin's regiment to relieve Major Naylor at Fayzabad; which I hope you will approve.

I have the pleasure to inform you, that the 8th regiment, which I left to escort the treasure from Fayzabad, arrived this day, and safely delivered its charge. Upon its arrival, I immediately dispatched to Colonel Muir the sum requisite for the payment of the arrears due to his detachment; I am now forwarding to Colonels Morgan and Sir John Cummings, the amount upon which they have called upon me, after which I shall lose not a moment in remitting the residue to the presidency.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, 8th Feb. 1782.

NATH. MIDDLETON,
Resident at the court of the Vizier.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I have had the honour to receive your commands of the 22d ultimo, through your military secretary, informing me of your instructions given to Mr. Charters for the seizure of Futty Saw, and your directions, that I should apply to the Vizier to give the most positive injunctions to the Aumils, and other officers of his government, to afford no shelter or retreat to this rebel, but in general to give every assistance they can to the detachment acting against him. I beg leave to acquaint you, that, in obedience to your commands, I have applied for, and obtained, his Excellency's instructions, and have further written to Major Thomas Naylor, whose regiment is employed on service in the Gorruckpore country, to co-operate with the detachment under the direction of Mr Charters, and to use every means in his power to promote the success of the expedition.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, 10th Feb. 1782.

NATH. MIDDLETON,
Resident at the court of the Vizier.

Digitized by Google

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

Incloſed I have the honour to forward your addreſſes from his Excellency the Vizier and his miniſters.

In juſtice to the latter, it is incumbent upon me to inform you, that during the progreſs of the buſineſs at Fayzadabad, I received from them the moſt willing and zealous ſupport; and that to their exertions I conſider myſelf greatly indebted for the complete ſucceſs which attended that buſineſs, as well as for the fruits of it being ſolely applied to the liquidation of the Nabob's debts to the Honourable Company.

Under theſe circumſtances, it would afford me great ſatisfaction, and, I conceive, tend to promote the public ſervice, were they honoured with ſome teſtimony of your approbation and favour, which would be particularly acceptable to them at this period, as their conduct in the tranſactions at Fayzabad, and in the reſumption of the Jagheers, has excited the inveterate reſentment of the Begum, and many perſons of the firſt conſequence about the court, whoſe intereſts have been affected by the latter meaſure, and created a far more powerful combination againſt them, than they have ever before had to oppoſe. In ſhort, Sir, they are conſidered, not only by this party, but by the Nabob himſelf, as the actual dependants of the Engliſh government; which they certainly are, and it is by its declared and moſt obvious ſupport alone, that they can maintain the authority and influence, which is indiſpenſably neceſſary to enable them to diſcharge the truſt repoſed in them, either with credit to themſelves or advantage to the public.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Locknow, (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON,
11th Feb. 1782. Reſident at the Vizier's court.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I have the honour herewith to tranſmit a letter addreſſed to you by the Nabob Vizier, informing you of his compliance with the only points that remained unfiniſhed of his part of the late agreement made with you, by having changed the mode of the receipt of his revenues now ordered to be all paid at the Huzzor to the miniſters, by whom all Tuncawders and Mooteyanah, &c. are to be paid, the Nabob firſt paying himſelf the expences of his private purſe, eſtimated at the medium receipts of the laſt three years

Digitized by Google

I have, in confirmation of the above-mentioned letter, received one from the minister, informing me of the accomplishment of this reform; from which, with the total resumption of all Jagheers, which is now perfectly completed, I have every reason to hope for the most beneficial result, and that every part of this government will now be in a state of regularity and tranquillity scarcely ever before experienced.

I also trust that you will now deem every wish, expressed in your instructions, to be fully performed.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

Lucknow, 11th Feb. 1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON, Resident at the Court of the Vizier.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I have just received intelligence, which I think may be relied on, of the death of the Nabob Nudjiff Cawn.

It is impossible to pronounce, with certainty, what may be the immediate consequences of this event. The ultimate ones, I have no doubt, will be the total subversion of that extensive government, acquired alone by his powerful influence and high military character, and by which, rather than any effective force, he has been able hitherto to maintain it. I do not know any one of his partizans, whose talents, activity, or superior influence over the rest are likely to create an absolute and permanent authority; dissentions therefore among the principal officers of his army may be expected to ensue, and those Rajahs and chiefs who have been deprived of their territorial possessions, will scarcely omit so favourable an opportunity of attempting to receive them.

Abdulah'd Cawn, the last minister, will probably be restored to office; and his object will naturally be the extinction of every shadow of Mudjif Cawn's power.

Upon the whole, however, I do not apprehend any consequences which can affect the honourable Company's interests, or the security of the Nabob Vizier, unless Zabitta Cawn, who, it appears, has long entertained views of attempting the recovery of his former possessions in Rohilcund, should be prevailed on to consider this a favourable occasion to prosecute them. In such an event I should think it very probable he would be joined by Fayzula Cawn, who, there is strong reason to believe, is by no means well affected to the Vizier's government, and who has of late made such preparations, and such a disposition of his family and wealth,

wealth, as evidently manifest either an intended or expected rupture.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

Poppamow, 24th Feb. 1782.

NATH. MIDDLETON, Resident at the court of the Vizier.

To the Hon. Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I had the honour to transmit you, a few days ago, intelligence I had received of the death of the Nabob Nudjif Cawn, which, from the authentic channel through which it came to me, I thought might be relied upon; but I have since been informed the report was premature; and late accounts from Dehly mention that the violence of the Nobob's disorder had so far abated as to give hopes of his rec very.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

Jawnpore, 28th Feb. 1782.

NATH. MIDDLETON, Resident at the Court of the Vizier.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

Upon the spirit of your former orders, relative to the appointment of a detachment under Sir John Cumming for the support and protection of the Vizier's internal government, and your subsequent letters declaratory of your sense of the footing on which the subsidiary brigade must be understood to remain with his Excellency, I have had repeated conversations with the ministers, endeavouring to shew the impropriety of making detachments from the frontier brigade, originally intended solely for the defence of the Nabob's dominions against a foreign enemy, for the assistance of the Aumils, or other ordinary services of the collections; and to convince them of the impossibility of continuing that practice, now that the whole effective force of the country was reduced to one brigade, without perverting this obvious design of its establishment, and thereby risking consequence to the honourable Company's arms and his Excellency's government, which it equally behoved them and myself to avoid; as from the frequent calls for such aid, and the nature of the service, and the very remote distance to which the troops were occasionally sent, neither the necessary attention to their discipline could be paid, nor their re-junction effected upon any emergency which might call for the immediate exertion of the whole force of the brigade.

Having succeeded in the impression which I wished to make on the ministers, and the reduction which has been made in the Nabob's Mooteyna troops strengthening the grounds

Digitized by Google

grounds I had agreed upon, I availed myſelf of this opportunity to propoſe an eſtabliſhment of the honourable Company's troops, which ſhould at once obviate the neceſſity of applying to the ſubſidiary brigade for aſſiſtance, and enable the Nabob to make ſtill further reductions in his Mooteyna and Sebundy eſtabliſhments: three regiments, with their guns and complete artillery eſtabliſhment, I am of opinion, would anſwer this purpoſe; and the miniſters are now ſo thoroughly convinced of the utility of it that they have authorized me to ſubmit the meaſure to your conſideration, with an aſſurance that they will chearfully co-operate with me in carrying it into immediate execution, ſhould it meet with your approbation.

To leave as little as poſſible for future diſcuſſion, and that no diſpute might ariſe about the payment of this eſtabliſhment, I propoſed a ſubſidy of 25,000 rupees per Menſem for each regiment, or 75,000 for the whole; which terms will be agreed to, and I hope be deemed ſatisfactory by you, as they will be fully adequate to every poſſible expence of the eſtabliſhment without ſtaff or commanding officer, which I preſume you will not conſider neceſſary, as the regiments muſt of courſe always be ſtationed and employed ſeparately, to make them anſwer the purpoſes for which they are intended.

I loſe not a moment, Sir, in communicating this propoſed arrangement to you in its preſent ſtage, that I may immediately receive your ſentiments and commands upon it; and I am happy in the opportunity which it at the ſame time affords me of evincing to you the attention which has been paid to your orders reſpecting the reduction of the Nabob's Mooteyna, as well as the inſtant beneficial effect of them, ſince the expence of the eſtabliſhments I now propoſe, is to be defrayed from that fund, without the ſmalleſt additional charge to the Nabob's government.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, NATH. MIDDLETON,
10th March 1782. Reſident at the court of the Vizier.

To the Hon. Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

In further explanation of the plan which I ſubmitted to you yeſterday, I now beg leave to encloſe a draft of a G. O. which is drawn up conformable to the ſentiments and wiſhes of the miniſters, and calculated to obviate an evil they ſeem moſt to apprehend, which is accumulating charges upon the Nabob over and above the amount ſtipulated for the three regiments.

The

The 8th, 20th, and 23d regiments are now upon ſervice in theſe provinces, and of courſe will by far be the eaſieſt to leave here upon the new plan; which, excluſive of ſaving the time and expence of marching freſh troops, will at once, by ſhewing how they are to be employed, preclude the danger ſo much dreaded here of having any commanding officer or ſtaff appointed to theſe regiments.

They moſt probably never can be employed together, as the preſent diſperſed poſition of them evinces.

The ſtaff expence, and inconveniency of controul in the diſpoſition of theſe regiments, were what the miniſters ſeemed moſt fearful of, and probably conſtituted the greateſt objection they had originally to the plan. I have taken upon me to aſſure them, their wiſhes on this head, as they appeared to me not unreaſonable, would be attended to; and I ſhall be happy to find this aſſurance confirmed by you.

I have been guided by the terms of your laſt agreement with the Nabob, in propoſing the period of relieving theſe regiments: but as the nature of the ſervice on which they are employed may not always admit of a ſtrict attention to this rule, I could wiſh to have the diſcretionary power of diſpenſing with it, when it ſhall appear neceſſary.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, NATH. MIDDLETON,
11th March 1782. Reſident at the Court of the Vizier.

G. O. The Nabob Vizier having ſtipulated to pay a fixed and limited ſum for the uſe of three regiments, which his Excellency has applied for towards the ſupport of his Aumils and collections, this is to direct that no officer going upon ſuch ſervice ſhall, under any pretence whatſoever, claim or receive from the Nabob or his agents, any ſum of money whatſoever, either for himſelf or any contingent expence he may incur, but ſhall tranſmit any claim he may have, through the uſual and eſtabliſhed channels, to the Paymaſters and Commiſſary General, as the payment made by the Nabob includes an amount equal to all charges to which ſervice is liable.

The firſt regiments appointed for this ſervice are the 8th, 20th, and 23d; which are to be relieved, in like manner with the Lucknow regiment, every three months, upon the application of the Reſident, who alone can determine whether the ſervice they may be engaged upon can prevent it.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

Previous to the receipt of your commands from Patna, of the 22d January, relative to the expulſion of Futty

Digitized by Google

Saw, I had caused the strictest injunctions to be laid on the officers of the Vizier's revenues in Govunthpore, to render every assistance in their power towards the effectual reduction of this notorious disturber of the Honourable Company's government; and had given Mirza Abdoola Beg, the Fougedar of Gorruckpore, a letter to present to Mr. Greme on this subject; and I take the liberty of troubling you with a copy of that gentleman's acknowledgement of the willing disposition which has been testified by Abdoola Beg to promote the success of this necessary service.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

Lucknow, 16th March 1782.

NATH. MIDDLETON, Resident at the Court of the Vizier

To Nath. Middleton, Esquire, Resident at the Court of the Vizier.

Sir,

I have been honoured with your letter of the 20th ultimo, which was sent to me by Mirza Abdoola Beg, the Aumil of Gorruckpore, who, I have the pleasure to acquaint you, has manifested the most earnest desire to fulfil the wishes of this government, and of the Vizier his master, for the apprehension of Futty Saw. Some time before the receipt of your letter, he sent a person to me with proposals for executing this purpose, which I immediately concurred with him in; and, a plan of operations having been concerted in consequence, I communicated it to Major Lucas, commanding the Company's troops at Burragong, who approved, and instantly took all measures for carrying it into force. Though the project was planned with all possible secrecy, the march of the detachment from this place appears to have been known to Futty Saw, who changed his ground the evening before the time fixed on for making the attack, but could not evade entirely the effects of the expedition; for Lieutenant Lally (with two companies of Major Lucas's regiment, which were stationed at Bogga) having received intelligence of this motion of Futy Saw's, marched directly to the spot where he was encamped with about three hundred men, attacked and slew about twelve of them, and was very near taking Futty Saw himself.

It would be unjust to Mirza Abdoola Beg, if I omitted to communicate to you the testimonies I have received of his good behaviour. Major Lucas, in his first letter to me after their junction, expresses himself as follows:

"The Phouzdar and my parties have met just as we "could wish; he has ordered out both horse and foot, and "seems to be the man you represented. We have agreed "to join heartily in the cause, and hope yet to prove "successful, &c." And again, in his letter of the 22d instant

instant, he says, "I have halted to-day by desire of the "Phousdar, who promised to join me; but as he has the "country to settle as he goes on, he has again requested to "see and consult before I go farther. As he seems in- "clined to prove himself the man you represented, I wish "to have his advice in this critical situation, particularly "as I don't think the service I am on can be hurt by this "(seeming) delay; for 'tis now certain that Futty Saw, "with his present small party, may evade every effort of "the most vigilant and numerous troops, in a country "like this."

Whilst a good understaading (which has never heretofore been the case) continues to subsist between the officers of the revenue in these districts and those of the Vizier in Gorruckpore, I think I may venture to assert, that Futty Saw will never have it in his power to disturb the peace of either.

I am, &c. &c

Burragong, 28th Feb. 1782.

CHARLES GRAME,
Collector of S. Saron, &c.

A true Copy.
(Signed) Nathaniel Middleton.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you, that, in consequence of some mismanagement having again intruded in the mint of Lucknow, I have been under the necessity of appointing a Sezaual on my own behalf to check and examine every rupee that may be issued from it.

I hope this unavoidable interference with the Vizier's officers will meet your approbation; as the preservation of the standard here is extremely material to the interest and convenience of the honourable company.

In order to complete the check you have directed over the Mooteynah, and their payment, I have been necessitated to appoint an Aumeen to receive and remit to me the collections of Letafut Ally Cawn's Jaidads, the net amount of which I have pledged myself to send to him; and, to prevent the misappropriation of these funds, which he heretofore so notoriously was guilty of, I have appointed a muster master and pay master to his corps at Dehly.

The person I have chosen for this duty is Cazem Ally Cawn, whose abilities must be known to you when formerly employed in Bengal as Phousdar of Houghly; I therefore hope this step will also meet with your sanction. Since the above arrangement was adopted, I have learned from certain intelligence, that Letafut Ally Cawn has entered into the pay of

Digitized by Google

of Nadjif Cawn, from whom he has received Jaidads for the maintenance of his troops. It of courſe follows, that the Vizier can no longer retain them in his pay and ſervice; upon which I have this moment received a meſſage from the Nabob, but have waved a reply until I ſhould receive your anſwer to the following queſtion.

Whether you think it moſt adviſeable, to the better arrangement and œconomy of the Nabob's finances, to take this favourable opportunity of ſtopping the large expence incurred upon this head; or, as our intereſt and politics muſt neceſſarily be connected more or leſs with the court of Dehly, Whether you think it beſt to have any perſon of declared attachment to our intereſt recommended to the Vizier to fill the ſtation vacated by the delinquency of Letafut Ally Cawn?

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

Lucknow, 20th March 1782.

NATH. MIDDLETON,
Reſident at the Vizier's court.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I have received the honour of your commands under date the 27th of February.

I have carried the original treaty down with me, in obedience to your orders of the 19th December; but, having determined, upon receipt of your firſt above-mentioned letter, to return immediately to my ſtation, I have brought it back with me, and ſhall now forward it by the firſt ſafe conveyance.

In obedience to the explanation you require, of the general aſſertion, that the objects of the late treaty have been fulfilled, I now proceed to recapitulate unitedly what I have hitherto in detached letters taken the liberty of ſubmitting to you; and, for regularity, I ſhall take up the paragraphs of your inſtructions, accompanying the Chunar treaty in the order they ſtand.

Par. 1. Requires the execution of the ſeveral articles of the treaty, being five in number.

The firſt has been fully effected by the complete payment of all arrears, and the march of the temporary and cavalry brigade into the provinces.

Nothing remains but the return, or adjuſtment, of the value of the ſtores furniſhed by the Nabob when the temporary brigade was firſt eſtabliſhed; of which only nine pieces of field artillery have yet been returned by Colonel Morgan. The incloſed is a letter from the Nabob upon the ſubject.

Mr.

Digitized by Google

Mr. Wombwell's office has been fully paid off and discharged, and all the arms and ſtores of the different corps delivered to the Nabob, and Aſſets for the payment of the extra regiment ſtationed at Lucknow included in the aſſignment for the current year.

The ſecond article relates to the reſumption of the Jaguire lands. This has been fully effected. The three moſt conſiderable are now under my charge—the Bow Begum's, Salar Jung's, and Letafut Ally Cawn's; a meaſure I was driven to enforce, on account of the mode in which the firſt reſumption of the Jaguires was conducted; which, by leaving the reſumed lands in the farm of thoſe who before held them on behalf of the Jaguirdars, little more than a ſhadow of the intended change was effected.

The third article, which includes the Jaguire of Fizzulla Cawn among the reſt, has hitherto been deferred by the poſtſcript to your general inſtruction, which forbids it until circumſtances may render it more expedient and eaſy to be attempted than the preſent more material purſuits of government make it appear.

However, I beg leave to repeat, that a ſtipend or allowance in ready money, to that chief, in lieu of his Jaguire lands, ſituated and peopled as they are by his own tribe, in vicinity to three capital territories of the ſame caſt, would be far more conducive to the intereſt and ſecurity of this government; and, as ſuch, permit me to recommend it to your conſideration.

The fourth article, as far as regarded this office, was fulfilled here.

The fifth and laſt article being only a proviſion for a future eventual contingency, was liable to no exertion here.

The counterpart of the treaty, being the arrangements which the Nabob pledged himſelf to effect towards introducing œconomy into his finances, conſiſting chiefly in three points—the reduction and regulation of his Mooteyenah troops—the ſeparation of his private purſe from the public funds—and placing the latter under the ſeparate management of the miniſters.

The firſt of theſe meaſures is in as great forwardneſs as it is poſſible; Pay and Muſter Maſters having been appointed to the whole, and the ſaving already made produced a fund equal to defray the eſtabliſhed charge of three regiments, as propoſed in my addreſs of the 10th inſtant. The other, of ſeparating and limiting the privy purſe, was immediately effected upon my return here from Chunar, and with that the ſeparate public funds placed under the miniſters.

I now proceed to the continuation of the paragraphs of your letter of inſtructions.

The

Digitized by Google

The 2d is only claiming my implicit obedience to what follows; to fulfil which has been and ſhall be my conſtant ſtudy.

The 3d paragraph is a recapitulation of the chief object of the treaty, being the ſhorteſt poſſible liquidation of the Nabob's debt to the honourable Company. To this purpoſe I have ſecured aſſignments, which I deem adequate to the full diſcharge of all demands by the end of the preſent Fuſſullee year; which, conſidering the greatneſs of the aggregate amount, is, I apprehend, as ſoon as could be expected.

The 4th paragraph is partly anſwered above; the reduction has chiefly been in the infantry, ſo as to bring in our troops to ſupply the deficiency; upon which ſubject my propoſal is before you. The corps under this denom ination here are chiefly Nudjeibs, and employed for the garriſons of the Aumils, Forts, Kutcherries, and Tânahs. The corps of cavalry could not ſo eaſily be diminiſhed or immediately reformed. They conſiſt moſtly of Mogols, entertained for the ſtate and perſonal ſecurity of the Aumil, who they generally attend in perſon; and, ſuch is the refractory diſpoſition of the people, who have never yet been properly controuled, that, was not ſome immediate viſible ſtanding force with the Aumil, at his command, to enforce his orders, he would neither be reſpected or obeyed, and conſequently unable to fulfill the duties of his charge.

The Sebundy is a ſeparate eſtabliſhment from the two above-mentioned, being a charge of generally about four per cent. upon the collections of the different Aumils, for a duty executed by a ſet of Peons, not military diſciplined men, who are ſtationed upon the crops and fields all over the country, for their protection. Theſe, from the nature and preſent ſtate of this government, appear to me abſolutely and indiſpenſably neceſſary for the collections, and can neither be embodied or farmed into any regular fixed eſtabliſhment; but the new year will afford an opportunity of reducing their numbers, and of bringing this part of the plan into greater perfection.

The 5th paragraph, regulating the mode of paying the Mooteyanah, has been completely eſtabliſhed, notwithſtanding the complaints and obſtructions brought againſt it by the Aumils; who are by it ſubjected to a check and controul which they are not pleaſed with, and deprived of an ideal proportion of authority over their men, by the interference of the Pay and Muſter Maſters.

To the 6th paragraph, which regards the Nabob's choice of officers, I have only to obſerve, that no vacancies have occurred which can have afforded room for an exertion of its clauſe.

Digitized by Google

The 7th, regarding the choice of Aumils, can only come under execution at the commencement of the year, when the Aumils are named.—The few instances of change which have accidentally occurred by the resumption of the Jaguires, have been conducted under the spirit of this order.

Upon the 8th paragraph, I have written a strong letter to the Nabob, recommending most earnestly to him to establish courts of justice throughout his dominions, beginning by a Sudder ul Hukk at the capital, of the effect whereof I shall hereafter inform you; I have not urged an instant adoption of the plan, as it appears more mentioned as a point you wish to be brought about by degrees than expect to see immediately enforced; nor is the government here yet sufficiently regulated to promise just now those beneficial consequences which are the objects of such an institution.

The 9th paragraph conveys a discretionary power, eventually to be exercised; an occasion for which hath not hitherto occurred.

The notice directed by the 10th paragraph has been publickly given to every person coming under its description, and who have signified their having received the order.

These complete your instructions; since which you have directed, as an additional article, that the Nabob should be supported in his claim upon the Bhow Begum, for the inheritance of the late Vizier's public treasure. This has also been done; 45 lacks have been recovered, and the Begums chief agents are now under severe restraint for the remainder of what they engaged to produce.

Trusting that from this explanation you will be satisfied that I have done all that the time I have had, and the circumstances I have been under, would admit,

I remain, with profound respect, &c. &c.

Lucknow, NATH. MIDDLETON.
the 25th March 1782. Resident at the court of the Vizier.

Nathaniel Middleton, Esq. Resident at Lucknow.

Sir, Fort William, 24th April, 1782.

As I understand that there are still remaining at Lucknow, or in other parts of the dominions of the Nabob Vizier, many persons subject to our government, or possessing an influence from their connection with it, besides the Company's covenanted servants attached to your department, and the officers and followers of the army, contrary to the agreement made by me with the Nabob Vizier in the month of August last, it is my positive order that you give them fresh notice to depart, and on failure of their immediate compliance, that you apply to the Nabob for his authority for their removal by force. Lieut. Colonel Polier, and

Major

Digitized by Google

Major Martin, are excepted from this order, having received permiſſion of the Board to remain, provided they have the Nabob's licence; and Mr. Thomas, to whom the like permiſſion has been granted, at the Nabob's expreſs requeſt

I am, Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.

Sir, Lucknow, the 9th of May, 1782.

I have received, through a channel of ſeeming authenticity, the following intelligence; which it is my duty to communicate to you, whether or not you may conſider it of importance.

A Frenchman, whoſe name I cannot learn, but who is ſaid to have been of ſome note at Dehly, has lately been ſent from that Court, on a ſuppoſed deputation from the preſent adminiſtration to Hyder Ally Cawn, and the French Commandant on the Coaſt, and thence to the government at Mauritius; for which latter purpoſe a frigate was to be ordered for his reception at Mangalore.

He arrived at Agra on the 20th of laſt month, and ſtaying only one night there, purſued his Journey by the route of Bundelcund, towards Naugpore, where it is ſurmiſed he has alſo ſome diſpatches to deliver for the Mahratta State.

If you think the matter of ſufficient importance, an early intimation to the Reſident with Madajee Bouſula, might be the means of intercepting this agent, or at leaſt of aſcertaining the truth or falſehood of the intelligence.

I have the honour to be, &c.

The Honourable (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.
the Governor General. Reſident at the Court of the Vizier.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I have received the honour of your commands of the 24th ultimo, which I have again ſignified to all dependants of the Honourable Company's government reſident in the dominions of the Nabob Vizier, falling under the deſcribed predicament; who, I hope, will ſhew an immediate obedience, but ſhould it prove otherwiſe, your further orders ſhall be ſtrictly attended to.

There are two gentlemen of my family whom I hope to be indulged with permiſſion to exempt from an immediate effect of the above order, holding myſelf entirely reſponſible for their conduct, ſo long as they may be allowed to remain with me; the one is Mr. John Pendred Scott, my private book-keeper, and ſole agent for the management of the ſalt petre provided in theſe provinces on account of the honourable

Digitized by Google

able Company, whose removal therefore would subject me to very great inconvenience and difficulty; the other is Mr. James Orr, who is in the monthly pay of my office, and occupied wholly in transcribing the accounts laid by me before the honourable Board, the Superintendant of the Offices, and the Accomptant General.

The loss of this gentleman's services, which could not be replaced here, would be extremely inconvenient to me, as the business of accounts is what very few are conversant in, either from the want of practice, or from never having made it an object of their particular study; I must therefore trouble you with my solicitations, in favour of these two gentlemen, and hope for your indulgence.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

Lucknow, NATH. MIDDLETON,
the 10th May 1782. Resident at the court of the Vizier.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings. &c. &c.

Sir,

Having, in obedience to your commands, prepared, and in your behalf invested the Ministers with the Khelats you consented to bestow upon them, as a token of your protection, I have now the honour to forward you their acknowledgements on that occasion; and am, with the most profound respect,

&c. &c.

Lucknow, NATH. MIDDLETON,
the 12th May 1782. Resident at the court of the Vizier.

Sir,

Inclosed I have the honour to forward you an address from the Nabob Muzuffer Jung, of Furruckabad, in acknowledgement of a letter of your's to him, lately forwarded to me by Mr. Markham, with your commands; and that I should cause it to be delivered into the Nabob's own hands, which was accordingly done.

I have the honour to be,

Lucknow, &c. &c.
the 21st May 1782. NATH. MIDDLETON.

The Honourable the Governor General.

To Mr. Nath. Middleton.

Sir, Fort William, 2d June 1782

I desire that you will not leave your station at a greater distance than Patna, as the Board will have occasion for your presence there speedily, for the adjustment of the accounts of this, and for framing the assignments of the ensuing

Digitized by Google

ſuing year. Inſtructions are preparing for you on both ſubjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 2d inſtant; and, in obedience to your commands, I ſhall not leave my ſtation at a greater diſtance than this place, but hold myſelf in readineſs to return with all poſſible expedition, to execute any orders you may be pleaſed to tranſmit me.

I have the honour to be,
&c. &c.
Patna, the 15th July 1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

Fort William, 24th July 1782.
To Mr. Nath. Middleton.

Sir,

Notwithſtanding the faith of government pledged to the Nabob, for the removal of all unlicenſed Europeans from his capital, and from his country, and notwithſtanding my repeated injunctions to you, I am informed that numbers yet remain at Lucknow, and the Nabob himſelf has made it the ſubject of a formal complaint. He undoubtedly conceives them to be under protection; and as it is your duty, ſo I muſt again deſire that you will undeceive him; that you will repreſent to him that my credit and the dignity of our government is hurt by this contempt of its authority; but that he is the magiſtrate of his own country, and that it is incumbent on him to remove thoſe who have been forbidden to remain in it. If they will not remove, why does he not uſe force to compel them? Why does he not cauſe them to be arreſted, and tranſported beyond his borders, with orders to his Aumils not to permit them to return?

I have been much ſolicited to let Mr. Scott ſtay; and his advocates have aſſured me that he had your promiſe. I cannot permit it; and if he has not left Lucknow, I muſt inſiſt on his leaving it inſtantly.—I am told that Captain Marſack is ſtill there. Why do you, and why have you ſuffered it? for I know that it is not with the Nabob's connivance.

I ſome time ſince read a letter from Captain Darell, requeſting to be permitted to continue at Lucknow, for the recovery of his health. If the Nabob will conſent to it, I will not object to his ſtaying till the end of the rains, if he ſhall find it neceſſary, but no longer.

I muſt

Digitized by Google

I must desire that you will send me a list of all the English gentlemen, of every denomination, who shall be at Lucknow, or in any other parts of the Nabob's dominions, when you receive this letter, and of the means used for removing those who have no right to be there.

Col. Polier and Col. Martin have been excepted by the Board from the general order; but their continuance must be with the entire option of the Nabob, or they must also be required to depart.

I am, &c. &c.

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.

To Mr. Nath. Middleton,
Resident at Lucknow.

Sir, Patna, the 17th August 1782.

I was duly honoured with your commands of the 24th July, which a necessary reference to Lucknow prevented my replying to before.

I have already had the honour to inform you, that your orders had been repeatedly notified to all the unlicensed gentlemen residing at Lucknow, who severally assured me of their obedience; and when I left that place, the end of June last, some had taken their departure, and the rest appeared to be preparing to do it with all possible speed. I learn from Mr. Johnson, that on receipt of your letter Messrs. Scott, Orr, Marsack, Carvalho, and Darell, were yet at Lucknow; the two former gentlemen were positively to depart by the end of this month at farthest, and Messrs. Marsack and Carvalho were then on the point of setting out. Captain Darell, whose health I am informed is in a very indifferent state, having your permission, is to remain to the end of the rains.

Besides the abovementioned gentlemen, Mr. Robert Grant and Mr. Bird are, I understand, resident at Furruckabad; but I have not signified your orders to them, being uncertain how far they might be considered to fall under their description. These are all the dependants of our government, that I know of, residing within the Vizier's jurisdiction, without public appointments, or the express licence of the Board.

I beg leave to assure you, Sir, that I never made any promise whatever to Mr. Scott, or gave him any hopes of continuing at Lucknow, excepting such as he might have derived from my consenting to forward a recommendation to you in his behalf.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

NATH. MIDDLETON,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

To the Honourable the Governor General.

Digitized by Google

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I had the honour to receive your commands of the 10th August, previous to my departure from Patna, and delayed the acknowledgment of them until my arrival at Lucknow, only that I might be enabled to yield you the fullest information and satisfaction on the subject of their contents.

I have had the pleasure to find, upon my arrival, that the report of Almas Ally Cawn's flight from the Vizier's dominions was premature. His conduct, for some time past, no doubt, indicated such an intention, and appearances at one time warranted a belief that his resolution was decidedly taken; but although he withdrew himself and his Naibs from the charge of the country, he never broke off his correspondence with the Court, or manifested any disinclination to return to his duty under his Excellency's government, whenever he might be assured he could do it on terms of undoubted security to himself.

The hasty and ill-founded alarms, with which the misrepresentations of the enemies of the Vizier's and our own government had impressed him, having been removed by the fullest assurances of security and protection, he has resumed the charge of the districts he before held; and I trust his future conduct will merit your forgiveness and continued patronage.

I must entreat, Sir, that you will suspend your judgment upon the state of the Vizier's administration, until I shall be able to lay before you a review of the measures already adopted, and now in agitation, for the regulation of this country, which I have not a doubt will afford the most satisfactory evidence of the happy effect of your arrangements.

Upon the last paragraph of your commands, I must beg leave to refer you to my address of this date to the honourable Board, which I confidently trust you will receive as an acquittal of the responsibility with which you charged me; and, as you have candidly rested your decision on my conduct on the ultimate effect of my exertions to realize the honourable Company's balance, conformably to the assurances I had repeatedly given on that head, I am encouraged to hope for that testimony of your approbation which it has ever been equally my study and ambition to merit, and which with me must ever constitute an essential part of any satisfaction I could look for in the most successful discharge of my duty.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

Lucknow, the 7th Sept. 1782.

NATH. MIDDLETON.
Res^t at the Court of the Vizier.

Sir,

Digitized by Google

Sir, Lucknow, 9th Sept. 1782.

In the course of the discussion with the Nabob and the Ministers, upon the further claim of the honourable Company, as stated by the Accomptant General, they mentioned the right, which they conceived his Excellency derived from the treaty, to charge the Company with the expence of Abdul Rahaman Cawn's corps, and seemed to intend making it the subject of an immediate public address to you; I have however, for the present, taken upon me to prevent such an application being made, wishing to be favoured with your previous sentiments upon it.

If the honourable Board are disposed to admit these pretensions, no embarrassing consequence could attend the public assertion of them; but if, on the other hand, they deem it inexpedient to admit the claim, and wish to avoid a public decision upon it, I apprehend it would be most adviseable to stop it altogether here; which I have no doubt I should be able to effect, if you are pleased to approve of my so doing. At all events, I flatter myself you will approve of the motive which induced me to trouble you with this intimation; and that you will believe me, with the greatest respect, &c. &c.

NATH. MIDDLETON,
Resident at the Court of the Vizier.

The Honourable the Governor General.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you, that all the unlicensed gentlemen formerly resident at Lucknow have, in obedience to your orders, taken their departure, excepting Mr. Orr, Captain Darell, and Mr. Scott.—The former acquaints me, that he has received an authority through Mr. Wombwell to continue at Lucknow.—Captain stays only until the rains are over, for which he has your permission; and Mr. Scott (from whom I beg leave to lay before you a letter, with surgeon's certificate) is preparing with all possible expedition, consistent with the reduced state of his health to fulfil your commands.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

Lucknow, 16th Sept. 1782.

NATH. MIDDLETON,
Resident at the court of the Vizier.

Richard Johnson, Esq. acting Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Sir,

In obedience to the Governor General's orders (which I did not conceive extended to my removal, before I received

Digitized by Google

replies from Calcutta) the beginning of laſt May, I have ſince then been uſing every means to clear my concerns, in order to withdraw myſelf from his Excellency's dominions.

This I would have accompliſhed ere now, had it not been for the bad ſtate of health I have laboured under ſince February laſt. My diſorders Mr. Murchiſon has attended to with the moſt attentive care, without being able to remove them; but gives me hopes, from the preſent change of ſeaſon, they may come to a criſis. He imagines my arrival from immediate aſſiſtance may be attended with danger to my life, before he ſees a probability of my recovery; and as ſuch he has given me his ſentiments, which I have incloſed you. I beg leave to requeſt you will inform the Governor General and his Excellency, that as ſoon as I can be moved with any ſafety, that I ſhall, in obedience to their orders; hoping that they will afford my people every juſt ſupport for their collecting my outſtanding advances, which were made before I ever knew of ſuch an order intended to be publiſhed. This makes my ſituation peculiarly hard, and leaves me every reaſon to dread I ſhall ſuſtain loſs of more than my own property, the fruits of 15 years unwearied toils in buſineſs. The balances now outſtanding amount to very near four lacks of rupees.

Any enquiry you chooſe to make into the truth of my aſſertions ſhall with chearfulneſs be laid before you, by,

Sir,

Lucknow, 12th July 1782.

Your moſt obedient, &c.
JOHN P. SCOTT.

Mr. John Pendred Scott having for many months been afflicted with various complaints, and being now in a very infirm ſtate of health, I am induced to believe, from what I have known of his caſe, that his undertaking a journey in his preſent ſituation might be attended with fatal conſequences; and I therefore ſtrongly recommend to him not to remove from hence, till the effects of a courſe of medicines and regimen now preſcribed for him can be aſcertained.

Lucknow, July 13th 1782.

K. MURCHISON,
Surgeon.

COPY

Digitized by Google

Copy of Proceedings, &c. relative to the Charges made by Mr. Hastings against Mr. Middleton, late, Resident at the Court of Oude, and against the Assistant Resident, Mr. Johnson; also relative to the State and Condition of the Country of Oude, and its Dependencies, and of the Reigning Family thereof.

[*The Asterisks in this Paper point out that Extracts from those Places have already been printed by Order of the House.*]

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, 28 *July* 1783.

The Governor General.

Mr. MIDDLELTON and Mr. Johnson having sent in their answers to the charges against them, which I understand are now in circulation, I hope the board will allow me to propose, that their several opinions should be given upon those charges before my own, on account of the peculiar circumstances of those accusations in their relation to myself.

Mr. MIDDLETON's Defence.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. Members of the Supreme Council, Fort William.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I have been honoured with your commands of the 12th instant, through your secretary, accompanied with a paper of charges against me, arranged under sixteen separate heads, which I am required to answer.

At a period so distant from that at which I delivered over the charge of my office to Mr. Bristow, I must be permitted to observe, I was as little prepared to receive as to answer charges against me for my conduct in the discharge of that office; as the honourable Board, when they informed me of that gentleman's appointment to succeed me, communicated not the least hint of displeasure or disapprobation of my public conduct, and unconscious myself of having merited censure, I had not a doubt but my removal was in consequence of the orders which I understood had been received from the honourable Court of Directors, for the restoration of Mr. Bristow to the Residency at Oude. But however unexpected this call upon me may be, I am very far from complaining of any occasion afforded me of explaining

Digitized by Google

explaining my conduct, where it may have been misunderstood; on the contrary, I acknowledge my obligation to the honourable Board, for permitting me to state collectively my conduct in the close of the important trust I have been honoured with for such a series of years. If I cannot vindicate my conduct for the period I stand accused, I shall be the less forward in claiming indulgence from the honourable Board, as a succession (with some interruption) of nine years residence and intercourse with the court and provinces of Oude, must impress an idea of local experience and continued approbation, which would leave no other construction upon misconduct, than a wilful neglect of my duty, amounting to little less than a premeditated and determined breach of trust, loaded with ingratitude and treachery to the interest of my employers.

The charges before me, regard my conduct for the Fussullee year 1189; that is, from the 23d September 1781, when my instructions upon the Chunar treaty were delivered to me, to the 23d October 1782, when I delivered over charge to my successor, Mr. Bristow. They generally aim to establish, 1st. That I did not effect the various objects of the treaty; 2dly. Disobedience of some subsequent, though connected orders; and 3dly, Inattention to my duty upon some heads more connected with a discharge of current business, than bearing any relation to the treaty.

Conceiving these three divisions to involve and describe the outline of my charges, I shall take them up in this succession to speak to them collectively; as my correspondence during that year, to which I shall occasionally refer, will, on examination, I think, be found to have answered, in detail, the major part, if not whole, of what is now before me.

In replying to my first division of the charge—Non-execution of the treaty and instructions that accompanied it—I shall best avoid confusion, and shorten what I wish to urge, by taking up unitedly the treaty and instructions, and briefly stating, in the opposite column, what was done upon them; premising, to lead the attention of the board, that the *grand object* was to liquidate the Nabob's debt of accumulating balance to the company, which the Governor General's recollection will confirm.—To obtain this liquidation, the Nabob was persuaded to agree to sundry arrangements in his government and finance, without which it was deemed impracticable to provide adequate resources to accomplish it within the year 1189, which although unexpressed, was understood to be the period for the attainment of this grand object; nor could it possibly be expected to take less, because the regulations of a land revenue (other

resources

resources there are not in Oude) can scarcely operate within the period of a year.

For a clear understanding of my conduct, it may not be unnecessary to advert to the situation and power of a resident at the court of Oude; that his success or failure, in the services expected from him, may be measured by the means he shall appear to possess, the only just criterion.

The Resident from his appointment, is the sole Agent from an ally to the court he resides in, with two obvious and peculiar lines of duty; one is, the political correspondence, for information of our government, and the preservation of a good understanding between the allied parties.—In addition to this, within these few years, another object, of very material public concern, has become an appendage of his office—the receiving the current claims and ballances due to the Company.

To effect this last object, he is competent to no positive act of his own authority; but is limited to obtain what success he may, from his influence over the Nabob's Chief Minister.

* * * * * * * * * * *

This might suffice to shew that the main object of the treaty and my instructions was fulfilled; but I now proceed to the separate heads of them.

1st Par. Regards the separation of the Vizier's personal disbursements from the public accounts.	This was attended to. Vide letter from the Resident, No. 2, and translation of a letter from the Minister, No. 3.
2d Par. Regarding the reform of the Sebundy and Mooteyna troops into regular mustered establishments.	This was also done. Vide the above vouchers.
3d Par. Regarding reduction of the Nabob's Mooteyna trooops.	This was also done. Proved by the Minister's offer of nine lacks (expressly savings from the Mooteyna reductions) for the maintenance of three of the Company's regiments proposed to be introduced in their stead. Vide Resident's letter, No. 4.
4th and 5th Paras. Regarding the Vizier's selection and appointment of his Commissioner under certain provisions, and the Resi-	These paragraphs convey eventual directions, to enforce which no contingency occurred. They were my guide in concurring with the

dent's concurrence with the Miniſter in the choice of Aumils and collectors.	Miniſter in the choice of Aumils and collectors, when any new ones were appointed, and dictated the principle on which I concurred with the Miniſter in the meaſure of increaſing the farms of Almaſs Ally Cawn; or rather, which was the fact, *reſtoring* to him what he had before held. His reſponſibility was unqueſtionable, and his attachment to the Engliſh, of which he gave ſeaſonable and unequivocal proofs during the Benares inſurrection, proved him worthy of our confidence. The Governor General diſtinguiſhed him on this occaſion with honorary teſtimonies of his approbation.
6th Par. Regarding the inſtitution of court of Adawlut.	My inſtructions on this head recommending this rather as a matter for future conſideration than immediate adoption, I did little more in it than lay the foundation of ſuch inſtitution.
7th Par. Authorizing military aid to be required from Cawnpore, when emergency ſhould require it.	This I availed myſelf of, as explained at length hereafter, in my reply to the third diviſion of my charge. Major Scott's was the only regiment undirected by any immediate order of the Board; and the neceſſity of this aroſe from the execution of my orders to Fyzabad.
8th Par. Regarding the removal of unlicenſed Europeans from Lucknow.	This was attended to. Vide Reſident's Letters, No. 5. and 6.

The foregoing appears to me to comprehend the ſubſtance of the Chunar treaty, and the inſtructions given me upon it, which I have in this place abſtracted, for the ſake of ſhortening my addreſs; but ſubjoined at large in the Appendix I have ſtated what was done. It muſt reſt with the honourable board to decide how far I performed my orders.

The

Digitized by Google

* * * * * * * * * * *

The ſecond diviſion which I have made of my charges, is diſobedience of ſubſequent though connected orders; which alludes to my conduct at Furruckabad. In this I ſtand accuſed of diſobeying the Governor General's peremptory commands; which I now proceed to reply to.

Upon the Nabob's letter to the honourable the Governor General, forwarded date the 2d December 1781, I received the orders under date the 26th of the ſame month; my diſobedience whereof is made the foundation of this charge.

* * * * * * * *

The death of Nudjiff Cawn, with all the conſequences probable and actual, attendant on that event, I duly noticed in a ſeries of letters, to which I beg leave to refer.

The ſuppoſed rebellion and flight of Almaſs Ally Cawn, I informed the board, upon my return to Lucknow in September, was a premature report, as I had always conſidered and treated it.

The only material occurrence worthy the honourable Board's information, relative to the Nabob's interior government, was the aſſaſſination of Mirza Abdoola Beg, Aumil of Goruckpore, which proceeded not from any diſorders in the country, but an unfortunate diſpute with two of his own immediate dependants. This accident was duly communicated to the Board, as well as the meaſures that had been taken to avert any bad conſequences, under date the 27th May 1782.

To the other article—employment of troops—I have to obſerve, that there were fewer regiments on ſervice in the Nabob's country during the year 1189, than in many, I believe I might affirm any, of the preceding years, ſince the preſent Nabob's acceſſion to the Muſnud; although more might in reaſon have been expected to be wanted upon withdrawing of the ſtations of Futty Ghur and Daranaghur. The Engliſh regiments under Colonel Hannay acroſs the Gogra; Captain Gall in Rohilcund; Major Clarke at Allahabad; and Captain Plowden at Lucknow. Theſe regular and other troops occupied the whole country, in every direction, in former years; notwithſtanding Major Crabb's regiment in Khyrabad, Major Lucas's, acroſs the Gogra, two regiments in the Doawb, and others were employed, and ſtill more wanted. Inſtead of all theſe, in a very turbulent year, when a rebellion had ſpread acroſs the country, only four regiments were employed; of theſe four, Major Naylor's had been called over, during the heat of the inſurrection at Benares, and ſent to Colonel

Hannay's

Digitized by Google

Hannay's relief, even before I reached Lucknow; another, Major Gilpin's, was, in consequence of the orders regarding the Fayzabad business, called in to put the Begums Jagheers into the Nabob's hands; a third moved in consequence of the orders of the board respecting Furruckabad, although first called in by me in consequence of the Fayzabad business, which had brought Bulbudder Sing into the Begums Jagheer; the fourth was obtained by my assistant Mr. Johnson, on an application to Colonel Blair, in my absence, upon his having returned the 23d regiment (late Major Naylor's) to Dinapore.

These are all the regiments that I directly or indirectly used; I say all, because I take it for granted, the new treaty regiments stationed at Lucknow, for particular purposes explained in the treaty, can have no reference to my charge.

In a state of almost general revolt, and the total recall of eighteen regiments and battalions of infantry, and two of cavalry, I might without exposing myself to the charge of making too far an use of the power given me by my instructions, have called in as many troops at least as were used in times of peace and quiet, when all these were in being, and fully stationed for the Nabob's service; consequently, I must hope I shall not appear criminal, in the judgment of the honourable Board, when I shew that myself, and assistant in my absence, of our own motion, only called in two regiments, and one of these in exchange for another returned into cantonments.

I cannot conclude this address without my apology to the honourable board, for the long intrusion I have been compelled to make upon them; I will not trespass longer on their time, but here close what I have to urge in vindication of my conduct on the charges preferred against me.

If in the course of the foregoing recital, supported by the several vouchers I have annexed, I shall have shewn that I accomplished the grand objects of the treaty, by liquidating not only the balance I stood pledged for, but the new claim from the Presidency—That I effected the several regulations prescribed by my instructions, to bring about this liquidation—by the total resumption of the Jagheers (excepting Fyzoola Cawn's only) and the arrangement and reduction of the Mooteyna. That I further fulfilled the objects of my orders respecting the Begums at Fayzabad, within ten days after my arrival there—And, finally, that I discharged the current business and duties of my station, by realizing the current claims, quelling the insurrection extending from Benares to the extremity of Rohilcund, and subduing such other disturbances as are perpetually arising

arising from the turbulence of the Zemindars, without the aid of more troops than shall be found to have been employed in former years—I assure myself, from the justice of the honourable Board, that they will declare me fully acquitted of the responsibility with which I was charged at the conclusion of the treaty, and deem me warranted in the belief I had formed, that my recall was the necessary consequence of obedience to the orders of the Court of Directors in favour of my successor, and not for any delinquency or misconduct on my part.

Earnestly entreating the honourable Board to relieve my anxious suspense, by indulging me with as early a decision on my conduct as may suit with their more important occupations,

Calcutta, I have the honour to be, &c.
30 June 1783. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

* * * * * * * * * *

Such subjects as could not, without interruption, be brought into this collective statement of my conduct, I have placed opposite the charges they respectively regard, and request they may be received as a part of my answer to the charges.

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

APPENDIX to Mr. Middleton's Defence.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit a letter addressed to you by the Nabob Vizier, informing you of his compliance with the only points that remained unfinished of his part of the late agreement made with you, by having changed the mode of the receipt of his revenues, now ordered to be all paid at the Huzzoor to the ministers, by whom all the Tuncawdars and Mooteyenah, &c. are to be paid, the Nabob first paying himself the expences of his private purse, estimated at the medium receipts of the last three years.

I have, in confirmation of the above-mentioned letter, received one from the minister, informing me of the accomplishment of this reform. From which, with the total resumption of all Jagheers, which is now perfectly completed, I have every reason to hope for the most beneficial result, and that every part of this government will now be in a state of regularity and tranquility never before experienced.

I also

Digitized by Google

I alſo truſt, that you will now deem every wiſh expreſſed in your inſtructions to me fully performed.

I have the honour to be, with great reſpect,

Sir,

Lucknow, the 11th Febry. 1782.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

A true copy.

Nath. Middleton.

Tranſlation of a Letter from Hyder Beg Cawn to Mr. Middleton.

I have been honoured with your letter of the 1ſt Rubbee ul Awol. You write, "that, correſpondent to the tenor of "the Purwannahs iſſued to the Aumils by his highneſs, in "conformity to the treaty, to remit their revenue to the "preſence, that the pay of the Mooteyna and Tunkadars "might in future be iſſued from thence, I alſo ſhould iſſue "my orders." Correſpondent to his Highneſs's Perwannahs, I have written letters to the Aumils. In future, the pay of the Mooteyna and Tuncawdars will not be iſſued by the Aumils, but by the officers of government at the preſence appointed for that purpoſe. It is expedient that you alſo notice this to the Aumils in the ſame manner.

A true tranſlation.

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Upon the ſpirit of your former orders, relative to the appointment of a detachment under Sir John Cumming, for the ſupport and protection of the Vizier's internal government, and your ſubſequent letters, declaratory of your ſenſe of the footing on which the ſubſidiary brigade muſt be underſtood to remain with his Excellency, I have had repeated converſations with the miniſters, endeavouring to ſhew the impropriety of making detachments from the frontier brigade, originally intended ſolely for the Nabob's dominions againſt a foreign enemy, for the aſſiſtance of the Aumils, or rather ordinary ſervices of the collections, and to convince them of the impoſſibility of continuing that practice, now that the whole effective force of the country was reduced to one brigade, without perverting the obvious deſign of its eſtabliſhment, and thereby riſking conſequences to the honourable Company's arms, and his Excellency's government, which it equally behoved them and myſelf to avoid; as, from the frequent calls for ſuch aid, the nature of

of the service, and the very remote distance to which the troops were occasionally sent, neither the necessary attention to their discipline could be paid, nor their re-junction effected upon any emergency, which might call for the immediate exertion of the whole force of the brigade.

Having succeeded in the impression which I wished to make on the ministers, and the reduction which has been made in the Nabob's Mooteyna troops strengthening the grounds I had argued upon, I availed myself of this opportunity to propose an establishment of the honourable Company's troops, which should at once obviate the necessity of applying to the subsidiary brigade for assistance, and enable the Nabob to make still further reduction on his Mooteyna and Sebundy establishments.—Three regiments, with their guns and complete artillery establishments, I am of opinion, would answer this purpose; and the ministers are now so thoroughly convinced of the utility of it, that they have authorized me to submit the measure to your consideration, with an assurance that they will chearfully co-operate with me in carrying it into immediate execution, should it meet with your approbation.

To leave as little as possible for future discussion, and that no dispute might arise about the payment of this establishment, I proposed a subsidy of 25,000 rupees per Mensem for each regiment, of 75,000 for the whole; which terms will be agreed to, and I hope be deemed satisfactory by you, as they will be fully adequate to every possible expence of the establishment, without staff or commanding officer, which I presume you will not consider necessary, as the regiments must of course always be stationed and employed separately, to make them answer the purpose for which they are intended.

I lose not a moment, Sir, in communicating this proposed arrangement to you in its present stage, that I may immediately receive your sentiments and commands upon it; and I am happy in the opportunity which it at the same time affords me, of evincing to you the attention which has been paid to your orders respecting the reduction of the Nabob's Mooteyna, as well as the instant beneficial effect of them, since the expence of the establishment I now propose is to be defrayed from that fund, without the smallest additional charge to the Nabob's government.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Sir,

Lucknow, the 10th March 1782.

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

True Copy.

(Signed) Nath. Middleton.

To

Digitized by Google

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

I have received the honour of your commands, under date the 27th of February.

I had carried the original treaty down with me, in obedience to your orders of the 19th December, but, having determined, upon receipt of your first abovementioned letter, to return immediately to my station, I have brought i back with me, and shall now forward it by the first safe conveyance.

In obedience to the explanation you require of the general assertion, that the objects of the late treaty have been fulfilled, I now proceed to recapitulate unitedly what I have hitherto in detached letters taken the liberty of submitting to you; and for regularity, I shall take up the paragraphs of your instructions accompanying the Chunar treaty, in the order they stand.

Par. 1st, requires the execution of the several articles of the treaty, being five in number.

The first has been fully effected, by the complete payment of all arrears, and the march of the temporary and cavalry brigade into the provinces. Nothing remains but the return or adjustment of the value of the stores furnished by the Nabob when the temporary brigade was first established, of which only nine pieces of field artillery have yet been returned by Colonel Morgan. The inclosed is a letter from the Nabob upon the subject.

Mr. Wombwell's office has been fully paid off and discharged, and all the arms and stores of the different corps delivered to the Nabob; and assets for the payment of the extra regiment stationed at Lucknow, included the assignments for the current year.

The second article relates to the resumption of the Jaguire lands.—This has been fully effected.—The three most considerable are now under my charge—The Bow Begum, Salar Jung, and Letafut Ally Cawn's;—a measure I was driven to enforce, on account of the mode in which the first resumption of the Jaguires was conducted, which, by leaving the resumed lands in the farm of those who before held them on behalf of the Jaguirdars, little more than a shadow of the intended change was effected.

* * * * * * * * * *

The fourth article, as far as regarded this office, was fulfilled here.

The fifth and last account, being only a provision for a future eventual contingency was liable to no exertion here.

The Counterpart of the treaty being the arrangements which

Digitized by Google

which the Nabob pledged himſelf to effect towards introducing œconomy into his finances, conſiſting chiefly in three points—the reduction and regulation of his Mootteyenah troops, the ſeparation of his private purſe from the public funds, and placing the latter under the ſeparate management of the miniſters.—The firſt of theſe meaſures is in as great forwardneſs as it is poſſible, pay and muſter maſters having been appointed to the whole, and the ſaving already made produced a fund equal to defray the eſtabliſhed charge of three regiments, as propoſed in my addreſs of the 10th inſtant. The other, of ſeparating and limiting the privy purſe, was immediately effected upon my return here from Chunar, and with that, the ſeparate public funds placed under the miniſters.

I now proceed to the continuation of the paragraphs of your letter of inſtructions.

The 2d, is only claiming my implicit obedience to what follows; to fulfil which has been and ſhall be my conſtant ſtudy.

The 3d paragraph is a recapitulation of the chief object of the treaty, being the ſhorteſt poſſible liquidation of the Nabob's debt to the honourable Company. To this purpoſe I have ſecured aſſignments, which I deem adequate to the full diſcharge of all demands by the end of the preſent fuſſullee year, which conſidering the greatneſs of the aggregate amount, is, I apprehend, as ſoon as have been expected.

The 4th paragraph is partly anſwered above.—The reduction has chiefly been in the infantry, ſo as to bring in our troops to ſupply the deficiency; upon which ſubject my propoſal is before you. The corps under this denomination here are chiefly Nudjeebs, and employed for the garriſons of the Aumils Forts, Kutcherries, and Tanahs. The corps of cavalry could not ſo eaſily be diminiſhed or immediately reformed. They conſiſt moſtly of Mogols, entertained for the ſtate and perſonal ſecurity of the Aumils, who they generally attend in perſon: and, ſuch is the refractory diſpoſition of the people, who have never yet been properly controuled, that, was not ſome immediate viſible ſtanding force with the Aumil, at his command, to enforce his orders, he would neither be reſpected or obeyed, and conſequently unable to fulfil the duties of his charge.

The Sebundy is a ſeparate eſtabliſhment from the two above mentioned, being a charge of generally about four per cent. upon the collections of the different Aumils, for a duty executed by a ſet of peons, not military diſciplined men, who are ſtationed upon the crops and fields, all over the country, for their protection. Theſe, from the nature and preſent ſtate of this government, appear to me abſolutely and indiſpenſably neceſſary for the collections, and can

can neither be embodied or formed into any regular fixed establishment; but the new year will afford an opportunity of reducing their numbers, and of bringing this part of the plan into greater perfection.

The 5th paragraph, regulating the mode of paying the Mootteynah, has been compleatly established, notwithstanding the complaints and obstruction brought against it by the Aumils, who are by it subject to a check and controul which they are not pleased with, and deprived of an ideal proportion of authority over their men, by the interference of the pay and muster master.

To the 6th paragraph, which regards the Nabob's choice of officers, I have only to observe, that no vacancies have occurred which can have afforded room for an exertion of its clause.

The 7th, regarding the choice of Aumils, can only come under execution at the commencement of the year, when Aumils are named. The few instances of change which have accidentally occurred by the resumption of the Jaguire, have been conducted under the spirit of this order.

Upon the 8th paragraph I have written a strong letter to the Nabob, recommending most earnestly to him to establish Courts of Justice throughout his dominions, beginning of a Sudder-ul Hukkal, the capital; of the effect whereof I shall hereafter inform you. I have not urged an instant adoption of the plan, as it appears more mentioned as a point you wish to be brought about by degrees, than expect to see immediately enforced. Nor is the government here yet sufficiently regulated to promise just now the beneficial consequences which are the objects of such an institution.

The 9th paragraph conveys a discretionary power, eventually to be exercised, an occasion for which hath not hitherto occurred.

The notice directed by the 10th paragraph, has been publicly given to every person coming under its description, who have signified their having received the order.

* * * * * * * *

Trusting that from this explanation, you will be satisfied that I have done all that the time I have had, and the circumstances I have been under, would admit, I remain, with profound respect, Sir,

Lucknow, the 25th March 1782.

Your most obedient, and most humble servant,

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

True Copy.

Nath. Middleton.

To

Digitized by Google

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

I was duly honoured with your commands of the 24th July, which a neceſſary reference to Lucknow prevented my replying to before.

I have already had the honour to inform you, that your orders had been repeatedly notified to all the unlicenſed gentlemen reſiding at Lucknow; who ſeverally aſſured me of their obedience thereto; and when I left that place, the end of June laſt, ſome had taken their departure, and the reſt appeared to be preparing to do it with all poſſible ſpeed.

I learn from Mr. Johnſon, that on receipt of your letter, Meſſrs. Scott, Marſack, Carvalho, and Darell, were yet at Lucknow. The two former gentlemen were poſitively to depart by the end of this month at furtheſt, and Meſſrs. Marſack and Carvalho were then on the point of ſetting out. Captain Darell, whoſe health, I am informed, is ſtill in a very indifferent ſtate, having your permiſſion, will remain till the end of the rains.

Beſides the above-mentioned gentlemen, Mr. Robert Grant and Mr. Bird, are, I underſtand, reſident at Furruckabad, but I have not ſignified your orders to them, being uncertain how far they might be conſidered to fall under their deſcription. Theſe are all the dependants of our government, that I know of, reſiding within the Vizier's juriſdictions, without public appointments, or the expreſs licence of the board.

I beg leave to aſſure you, Sir, that I never made any promiſe whatever to Mr. Scott, or gave him any hopes of continuing at Lucknow, excepting ſuch as he might have derived from my conſenting to forward a recommendation to you in his behalf.

I have the honour to be, with the greateſt reſpect,

Patna, Sir,
the 17th Aug. 1782. Your moſt obedient and
moſt humble Servant,

True Copy. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.
Nath. Middleton.

The NABOB's TREATY or Agreement with the Honourable the Governor General.—Original, in the Perſian Language, was ſigned and ſealed by his Excellency.

Having on my behalf agreed to the requiſition of the Nabob Vizier, without diminution or reſerve, I muſt now repeat the requeſt which I before verbally made to him, that he will be pleaſed to attend to ſuch propoſals as I ſhall have to make to him; and to theſe I expect his aſſent the more readily,

Digitized by Google

readily, as they have for their ultimate object his interest alone, that of the Company being no further concerned than in the influence which they will eventually have in the payment of the debt due from the Nabob to the Company; I therefore recommend him to reduce the great number of his Sibundy and other troops to regular and complete establishment, not to be paid by assignments of revenue, but in money from the treasury, and their number not to exceed the certain means of paying them; but as this may be difficult, without making a separation of the Nabob's public and private funds, I further recommend, that he receive into his private purse no more than a fixed monthly sum for the expences and household, and that the remainder of the nett collections be left in a public treasure, under the management of his public ministers, and the inspection of the Resident, for the discharge of his military and civil disbursement.

This advice is not meant to affect the assignments annually made, and which must be annually received, for the payment of the past debt, and the current demands of the Company.

A true Copy.

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

To Mr. Nathaniel Middleton, Resident at the Court of the Nabob Vizier.

Sir,

Having on the 19th instant entered into certain engagements with the Nabob Vizier, tending to relieve his finances of a burthen they were no longer able to sustain, with sundry other clauses, the execution of which is entrusted to you, I herewith enclose an authentic copy of the same for your guidance.

The Nabob, on his behalf, has subscribed and sealed an agreement, in your presence, and in the presence of Mr. Richard Johnson and Hyder Beg Cawn, respecting the administration of his affairs, of which I also transmit you an authentic copy.

To these papers, and to the points consequently and necessarily dependant on them, I think it necessary to add the following instructions, to which I require your most implicit obedience.

I need scarcely inform you that my chief object, in my negociations with the Nabob, has been to induce and assist him to bring his government and finances into such regularity, as to prevent his alliance being a clog instead of an aid to the Company, and to enable him to discharge his debt in the shortest time possible. To this end, the most essential point is to limit and separate his personal disbursements from the public accounts; they must not, in their total annua

Digitized by Google

nual amount, exceed what he has received in any of the last three years:—this amount, in twelve equal parts, should be paid him monthly out of the first receipts, and the remainder of the nett collections placed separately in a public treasury, from whence his public, military, and civil establishment must be paid, under the sole management and controul of the ministers, with your concurrence. It is of course to be understood, that this has no connection, and is in no shape to interfere with the Company's assignments, and the collection upon them, which are to be conducted as usual; and as, by the addition of the Jaguire lands, with their revenues, to the Nabob's regular collections, his income will, or ought to be, considerably increased, I shall expect that the whole of the excess be appropriated to the discharge of the Nabob's debt to the Company.

After settling the amount of the personal disbursements of the Nabob Vizier, and his household, the next point that will require your exertions, towards the general arrangement of the public charges, is the reform of the established and Muttaena troops, reducing them into an established corps for the whole service. If this corps could be brought to consist solely of cavalry, it would best answer mutual benefit, leaving no infantry in the Nabob's service but what may be necessary for his body guard; and to supply the deficiency, should any occur in such arrangement, our infantry may be employed, where infantry are wanted.

The corps reformed and established, their pay must be issued from the public treasury;—no assignments upon the revenues to be in future granted them, and those already issued to be recalled. To complete this, all numbers above what the real service may require, or the actual nett receipts may be adequate to the full payment of, must be disbanded as fast as the arrears can be paid off.

The Nabob will select and appoint his own commanders; but if he should nominate improper persons, such as the men commonly known by the name of Orderlies, or other deriving their influence from them, or of known disaffection to our government, you are in such case to remonstrate against; and if the Vizier shall persist in his choice, you are peremptorily, and in my name, to oppose it as a breach of his agreement.

For the management of the collections, the ministers, with your concurrence, are to chuse all aumils and collectors, and in their choice to be guided by the responsibility, good reputation, and known ability of the persons they elect, that, as far as possible, changes should be avoided.

Much is to be said, though little may now suit, upon the subject of the distribution of justice in the Nabob's dominions. For the present, I limit myself to direct you to urge the Nabob to endeavour gradually, if it cannot be done at

once, to establish Courts of Adaulet throughout his districts; the daragos, moulovies, and other officers of which must be selected, as in the case of the Aumils, by the Ministers, with your concurrence. The want of these courts is equally hurtful to the revenue, government, and reputation of the Nabob.

In consequence of the disturbances which the rebellious example of Rajah Chyte Sing has caused in the Nabob Vizier's country, I have instructed Colonel Morgan to assist you, on the requisition of the Vizier, communicated by you to him, or at your own single application, if any case of emergency shall make it needful, with such detachments as may be necessary, exclusively of the regiment of Sepoys which is stipulated to remain with you at Lucknow. This power you are not to use but in case of the most urgent and manifest necessity. It is directed, that the regiment ordered for the immediate protection of your office and person at Lucknow, shall be relieved every three months, and during its stay there, shall act solely and exclusively under your orders.

It is finally my positive order, that you do not permit any British subject, or others, claiming the name and protection of the Company, to reside at Lucknow, or within any part of the dominions of the Nabob Vizier, except the officers and soldiers of the army acting in their duty, and such persons as are officially appointed to remain there; and that to such as are now at Lucknow, or in any other part of his dominions, not falling within the description of the above exception, you give due notice in writing that they quit the country, allowing them a reasonable time, not exceeding three months, to settle their affairs; and in case of their refusal, you are to inform the Nabob thereof, that he may use his own authority to compel them to depart.

Chunar, I am, Sir,
23d Sept. 1781. Your most obedient
humble servant,
A true Copy. (Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.
(Signed Nath. Middleton.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

It appearing, by a letter received from your Accomptant General, dated 23d August 1781, that the Nobob's debt to the honourable Company, agreeable to his statement, exceeds the amount at which it stands in my office, owing to entries made in the account at the presidency, never before communicated to this station, I have deemed it expedient, although unauthorized by the sanction of your orders, to avail myself of assets nearly equal to that excess, and shall retain

Digitized by Google

tain them while the accounts go through the examination of the Nabob's officers; for which purpose they have been delivered to them, and as soon as they have finished, and given me their report upon them, which they assure me shall be in a very few days, I shall do myself the honour to lay it before you, in order to obtain your final instructions for the liquidation.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Lucknow, Sir,
the 21st February 1782. Your most obedient, and
Most humble servant,

A true Copy. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.
Nath. Middleton.

To the Honnourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, and the Members of the Supreme Council, Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have been honoured with the receipt of your commands of the 11th July, directing,

1st. Sundry entries to be made in the Nabob Vizier's accounts, as additional claims upon his Excellency, arising from a difference of the statement of his balance on the 30th April 1781.

2dly. Expressing your surprize that I should have limited my assignments for the current year to 76,37,458—while I had information, in the middle of October, that 26,48,571. 3. 8. was claimed as a difference of balance on the 30th April 1780, and acknowledged on the face of my own account 55,28,512, 12. 11, making together a sum of 81,77,084. 7.—unprovided for in the assignments for 1189.

3dly. Noticing a neglect of the prescribed line of my duty, in having omitted to prepare and lay before the honourable Board, estimates of demands and drafts of assignments for the year 1189; owing to which omission, you could now only speak upon them from accidental information.

4thly. Requiring this prescribed rule to be fulfilled before the end of the current year 1189, by preparing and transmitting you such estimates and drafts for 1190.

5thly. Expressing your disappointment at the prospect of so large a balance, at the close of the current year 1189, notwithstanding the great aids the Nabob's finances had received from you, to enable him to liquidate the whole of his balance in the course of this year.

6thly. Observing that I have received no part of the Tunkaw upon Furruckabad, and have never intimated the cause, in any address, either to the Board or the Governor General; and, upon a conception, that the payment withheld may have proceeded from an advantage taken by the

Digitized by Google

Nabob Muzzuffer Jung, of your mediation with the Nabob Vizier, you direct, in such case, that I immediately afford his Excellency effectual assistance for the recovery of what money may be due to him from Muzzuffer Jung, and expressly to withdraw all other interference with that Nabob.

In reply to these several heads, which I have numbered for the sake of perspicuity, I must beg leave to solicit the attention of your honourable Board to the particular circumstances I shall submit to your consideration, upon each head separately, taking them in the order in which they stand in your commands.

1st. Your directions respecting the entries in the Nabob Vizier's accounts shall be punctually executed, in the manner following:—In the accounts of the current year 1189, I propose entering such part of the new claim as may fall within the sum of rupees 26,48,571. 3. 8, being the difference of balance first communicated to me, by you, in the 2d paragraph of your commands, the middle of October; the remaining fourteen lacks (the whole claim being forty lacks) I propose adding to the current demands for the year 1190, and I am encouraged to hope you approve the motives which induce me to propose this distinction, instead of making the whole entry immediately, as you are pleased to direct—they are these:—in a subsequent part of your commands now before me, you call upon me to realize the sum of rupees 26,48,571. 3. 8, which I separately reply to in regular course; and in other letters, which I shall hereafter have occasion to refer to, you are pleased to consider and hold me responsible for the due collection of this sum within the term of the expiration of the current year; if, therefore, I do not hold it separated from the general claim now transmitted, I cannot refer to what I have undertaken and executed relatively to it separately, and should involve and confound the responsibility with which you justly charge me, upon the grounds of my having had sufficient previous notice of this claim, with a much larger sum, unknown in amount or existence, before the receipt of your letter. Further, were I to include the whole in the present year, I should, while only accepting, or meant to be charged with the responsibility of collecting such sum as I had timely information of, lay myself open to the proof of leaving a balance this year, which proof I hope to obviate under the reserves hereafter explained: and, finally, were I now to include the total new claim of forty lacks, in the accounts of this year, with the above objections, it would be of no benefit or use, as the knowledge of it is come to hand at a time when no man can undertake it from a country where the collections arise solely and exclusively from the two annual crops,

Digitized by Google

crops, Kherif and Rubby, both which were off the ground long before the receipt of your commands, and no ſeparate fund exiſting to recur to, in default of the collections. Upon theſe grounds I hope to ſtand excuſed, and meet indulgence for this ſmall and immaterial deviation in the mode of executing your orders, eſpecially as it cannot be attended with any poſſible detriment or prejudicial conſequence to the honourable Company, the periods of the new and the old years being now ſo inſtantaneouſly before us, that the difference of time between the divided entries cannot exceed many days.

Upon the 2d head, I muſt crave leave to refer your honourable Board to my addreſs of the 30th December 1781, a copy whereof is included a number in this packet, and ſtates my reaſon for a temporary limitation of the aſſignment for this year to the ſum of rupees 76,37,458; viz. my expectations, from the aſſurances given me by the Nabob and his miniſters, of a ſupply from Fayzabad, equal to the liquidation of the balance of his Excellency's account with the honourable Company, as apparent upon the face of my annual account for 1188; which expectation in the reſult proved to have been well founded. The ſum of 26,48,571. 3. 8. additional claim, ariſing from the difference between the balance of the honourable Company's account, as ſtated by your Accomptant General, and the Reſident's of the 30th April 1780, was not included in the then arrangement, for reaſons which, I truſt, will claim the conſideration of the honourable Board. Firſt, From the ſituation of the Nabob Vizier's country and finances at the beginning of the current year, as ſet forth in my ſeveral addreſſes at that period, but particularly in two, of the 17th and 20th of October laſt, of which, to ſave the honourable Board trouble, I beg leave to tranſmit copies. I was forced to defer taking aſſignments for the balance of 1180, until the Nabob ſhould recover ſo much of his paternal eſtate at Fayzabad; conſequently the ſame arguments were of equal force againſt including any other balance in the firſt claimed aſſignments, which were calculated merely to anſwer the actual current diſburſements.—But then reaſonably may be expected to follow, the queſtion, Why not at leaſt have taken a bond for this ſum, as well as the balance of 1188?—To this I beg leave, in the ſecond place, to anſwer, That together with the information of this claim, unſupported and unſanctified by any order of the honourable Board, ſignifying their approbation of it, or their intention that it ſhould be brought to the Nabob's debit, until it had undergone the uſual forms of examination in his Excellency offices, and obtained his ſanction, which had been the caſe with

Digitized by Google

all former demands, I received notice that it was liable to a reduction or diminution of near one half its amount; and upon laying it before the Nabob and his ministers, they stated a counter claim, which has been referred by his Excellency to the honourable the Governor General, and promised to be equitably considered. From the several objections to this amount as a decided claim, I trust the honourable Board will not hold me deserving of censure for not realizing it, but will, on the contrary, be inclined to allow that upon receipt of their order, now before me, I have gone every just length, in demanding and obtaining from the Nabob a conditional deposit of the money, while the heads of the claim undergo investigation. His Excellency has granted me assignments for the amount, which I have pledged and mortgaged the collections of to Gopaul Doss Sah, and other Shroffs, who have agreed to advance the full amount upon the above-mentioned assignments. I shall have the honour of remitting the amount within the year, which is the period stipulated by your Board for the execution of this order.

The Nabob's counter claim, as already communicated to the Governor General, by the original of the enclosed duplicate, is for stores, horses, ordnance, &c.; and I have authority from his Excellency to inform you, that he agrees to refer to the evidence of the returns of your own Commissaries, and the estimation of your Board of Ordnance, or to wave all amount and evalution upon return of the actual or equivalent stores. Upon this head, I would submit one further proposition, which is, that it appears the honourable Company have still a further claim, for a difference of balance to April 30th 1781 (about fourteen lacks) at least equivalent in its aggregate to the amount of the Nabob's counter claim; that the examination and adjustment take place upon this last account, and the payment of the 26,48,571. 3. 8. be concluded and received as a full and final payment to the date it alludes to, viz. the 30th April 1780. I have no doubt of being able to bring the Nabob to agree to this adjustment, if this should, as I think it will, meet with your approbation. In this case, I must request you will be pleased to order your Accomptant General to separate the amount particular and general of this second claim from the former; and here from a knowledge of your justice, and a consequent conviction that you only mean to charge the Nabob with the real excess proved to be due from him, after deducting the amount of any well-founded counter claim, I beg leave to recommend, that you direct your Accomptant Geueral to draw up this difference of balance in two separate statements, each agreeing with the other; one being that as it now stands, drawn up to the

30th

Digitized by Google

30th April 1781, the other closing the statement on the 30th September 1780, and from thence on to the 30th April 1781. The reason of my proposing this check is, that the Nabob's account being all closed in September, it is much easier for him and his officers to comprehend, admit, or answer a statement corresponding with the period of their own accounts, than one totally irreconcileable with it.—Should you be pleased to think this a reasonable indulgence, I would solicit this adjusted statement to be made up to September 1779 and September 1780, as well as those already made to April 1780 and April 1781.

The 3d paragraph stands answered in the first lines of my reply to the second; as in the address I there allude to, I submitted a statement of the nature of that you suppose to have been omitted. In further exculpation of myself, beg leave to recall to your memory, that on the 15th March 1781, I was instructed, through the Acting Secretary, to correspond upon all subjects of accounts with the Comptroller of the officers, who being a Member of your honourable Board, I concluded it became unnecessary to trouble you with repetitions on those subjects, especially as, in obedience to orders, I regularly transmitted duplicates of all my accounts to the Accomptant General, until he informed me it was an unnecessary and superfluous, from the copies forwarded to the Comptroller ultimately coming into his office. But I shall now, conceiving it to be your intention, address the Board directly and separately upon whatever I may in future transmit to the Comptroller of the Offices; to which end,

4th, I am now preparing the estimates for the new year; which only wait your decision upon the proposals in the third paragraph of this letter, to be compleated and laid before you.

Upon the 5th article of your commands, I have the pleasure, in alleviation of this disappointment you apprehend, to inform you, that I have, as per inclosed treasury account, not only realized the total amount of the assignments taken at the beginning of the Year, but also an additional sum equal to a complete discharge of the excess of disbursement beyond the amount estimated at the commencement of the year; which I have thus early effected by raising the amount upon the balances of the assignments, which always run in their final adjustment two months at least into the new year, as all former accounts well testify; and this advance I have extended to the amount disbursed, including the excess beyond the estimated sum above mentioned. This measure will, I flatter myself, prove acceptable to the honourable Board, as it will enable me to make very considerable remittances much within the period of the final

accustomary

Digitized by Google

accustomary adjustment. I must aver, that I have been able to accomplish this, alone, by assuring the Shroffs that I should receive the fullest support from the honourable Board in enacting such measures as shall appear necessary to secure to them the complete collection of the balances; and upon this I hope to have your full approbation and sanction.

Upon the 6th Article, the honourable Board have anticipated my reply, by adverting to what they conjecture may have been the cause of the total failure in the collections from Furruckabad, which was, as they have justly supposed, an improper advantage taken by Muzzuffer Jung of the mediation employed with the Nabob Vizier in his behalf. I have therefore, immediately upon receipt of your orders, withdrawn all mediation and interference which stood between the Nabob Vizier and the collection of the tribute from Furruckabad, and afforded him the assistance directed, by sending a regiment to support the Bezawal appointed by his Excellency for the collection of the tribute of the ensuing year; and have added my instructions to the same agent to collect the assignment of seven and a half lacks first above-mentioned, upon the tribute and balances due to the end of the current year; and as I have anticipated the success of this trust by raising this amount among the other balances as above stated, I have the satisfaction to reflect, that the honourable Board will not even feel the inconveniency arising from the delay that the mediation in favour of Muzzuffer Jung has occasioned.

It may be proper to explain, that the excess of disbursements beyond the estimated amount has arisen from two causes; the first was, That the troops of Futty Ghur and Mr. Wombwell's office and establishment received their pay and allowances beyond the date stipulated by treaty (upon which the estimate was made) because the Nabob's finances not being adequate to the immediate discharge of their balances; and this being a previous condition of the treaty, their pay and usual disbursement went on until they could be fully paid up. Secondly, The army debts were rated in the estimate at five lacks, and have in the result much exceeded that sum, which unavoidably caused the diversion of assets to that channel which were expresly granted and intended for other purposes. This unforeseen accumulation of the army debt, and the preference which it was my duty to shew to the honourable Company's claims, have necessarily retarded the payment of the late Vizier's promised donation to the 2d brigade; which I hope will meet your approbation, as that sum, as well as the fourteen lacks unliquidated of the honourable Company's new claim, will be an easy provision, with the current demands of the ensuing

year,

Digitized by Google

year, the full amount of which I have not a doubt of being able to realize.

I am willing to flatter myself, that under your indulgence I shall appear to have acquitted myself of the responsibility annexed to my office; your public testimony upon which I am the more anxious to merit, as the many unforeseen and uncommon obstacles which have occurred in the course of this year, rendered me apprehensive that the effects of my exertions might fall short of your expectations.

I have the honour to be, with great respect,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Lucknow, the 7th September 1782.

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

A true copy.

Nath. Middleton.

* * * * * * * *

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

When I had last the honour of seeing you, I more than once urged my reason for thinking that the rebellion of Rajah Chyte Sing was but a part of a larger and more extensive plan, which was, by the good fortune of your arrival, prematurely brought forward, before all the parties to it were united and properly in action. In support of this belief, and to prove that I am far from being single in the espousal of it, I beg leave to trouble you with some extracts from the letters I received from Colonel Hannay, written from the time of the first breaking out of the rebellion to my return to Lucknow. His situation for obtaining the knowledge he imparts, his experience, and his judgment to guide what he advances, must make his sentiments of weight and authenticity.

In his letter of the 8th of September, from Fayzabad, scarcely ten days after he had set about obeying the Nabob Vizier's orders, to march with his force to your assistance, he writes, "That the whole country on the East side of "the Gogra was in arms and rebellion; his own troops "deserting, and the single companies scarcly able to join "other detachment; the Forts of Gurruckpore, Bilma, "and Dumreeagunge, taken from the Aumils by the "Zemindars; and that even Hircarrahs cannot pass; so "that all communication of intelligence from his other "detachments under Major M'Donald, Captain Williams "and Lieutenant Gordon, was cut off, and at an end." He adds, "This town, Fayzabad, has more the appear- "ance

"ance of belonging to Cheyt Sing than the Vizier. The "Begums have place guards to prevent any of my people "going to the Bazar in it. Within these few days Shake "Chaan, with near 1000 horse and foot, has marched "from hence to Benares (they were raised here) and I "must confess that for my own part I have no doubt but "Jewar Ally Khan, and Behar Ally Khan, through their "Agents, have stirred up all the disturbances, which ex-"tend from hence to Powey Azimgur. I have sent Hoo-"lessray to the Begum, to enquire into the reasons of my "people being prevented from going into the town, Chyte "Sing's being suffered to raise troops here, and why her "servants attempted to prevent my getting boats to trans-"port the Company's guns and horse from Amora. I "have also desired she will give orders for seizing the family "of Shake Chaan (abovementioned); and when Hoolass-"ray returns, I will write you her answer. In Khyrabad, "Sylack, and all the country on the (West)sides of the "Gogra, between Fyzabad and Khyrabad, Budalmy in "Perfection; the Aumils flying before the Gongwars, "and cannon firing at all hours. Chyte Sing has sent "money to Futty Saw, Ghino Ray, Ajectmull, Zalem "Sing, and the refractory Rajahs, to enable them to raise "men.—I this moment received Gordon's account of the "loss of his detachment, which puts my march to join you "out of the question.—It happened by the villainy of the "Fouzdar of Tanda, Sheemsheer Khan, Achulah of Be-"har Ally Kahn, who turned his guns upon the detach-"ment; and an unfordable Nullah in front, and many "thousands of Rajepoots, who had fought them all the "way from Chowra Gaut, made the Sepoys despair.— "Zalem Sing, and Prettypaul Sing, mean to attack "M'Donald to-morrow with 2,100 men.—Behar Ally "Khan deserves death, as the loss of Gordon's detachment "can only be imputed to him; his Chelah would never have "acted so damning a part without orders from him. Je-"war Ally Khan, in the Chocke of Fyzabad, asks every "man who bears the appearance of a soldier, why he goes "not to Chyte Sing for service. I mention these circum-"stances, that you may mention them to Mr. Hastings "and the Nabob, and the necessary steps be immediately "taken to prevent, what delay will render a very serious "matter. A few days more will lead the ferment which "is here to Lucknow. If the Nabob insists of my pro-"ceeding, I must bring every body with me, for who-"ever is left behind will be sacrificed."

On the 7th September, Captain Williams writes, "upon "my arrival here, I found that part of Futty Saw's, Ghee-"noo Ray's, and Ajectmull's people had crossed to Man-

"jowlay;

Digitized by Google

" jowlay; they have been urged to this ſtep by Cheyte
" Sing, who has ſupplied them with a conſiderable ſum
" of money, and promiſed them great ſums, if they will put
" the whole country into confuſion; 5000 men are on the
" oppoſite ſide of the river ready to croſs. Futty Saw has
" written to all his adherents to be up in arms. *Saadit Ally*
" and the *Begums*, are concerned deeply in the late buſi-
" neſs."

In a ſubſequent letter, received immediately after the above, but without date, Col. Hannay ſays, " I have before told " you how violently the Begums people inflame the preſent " diſturbances; and, in addition to this, the principal Ze- " mindars and Rajahs have all certificates under the ſeal " of Chyte Sing, that he will ſupply them with whatever " money they may require for ſubſiſting all the troops they " can raiſe. In a very ſhort time, I apprehend, the greateſt " part of the Nabob's dominions will be in the ſtate we " are in here; and it is the general belief of every man in " this part of the country, that the conduct I have related " is a concerted plan for the extirpation of the Engliſh. " What may be the ſituation of the reſt of the Nabob's " dominions I know not, but it is moſt certain, that from " Goonda to Manjee, and from Fyzabad to Benares diſ- " trict, and croſs from the Gogra to the Ganges, the " country is in the utmoſt ferment. Should the preſent " diſturbances proceed from a plan of policy, it will be con- " cealed from you as much as poſſible, and therefore I take " all poſſible means of communicating to you what I really " know to be fact.—I know not whether the Dawks paſs " freely from you to Lucknow; but if they do not, and " no meaſure is immediately taken to bring about order, " and draw the troops together, we may be deprived of all " poſſible means of aſſiſting one another, and the army loſt " by detached regiments. We have no communication " with Bengal, and the troops on this ſide Benares are at " preſent too much ſeparated to yield one another timely " aſſiſtance. I hope to God a ſufficient force is ordered " for the reduction of Chyte Sing; *for the people who are* " *daily ſent to him, horſe and foot, from Fyzabad,* and the " the ſeat of rebellion I have before named, *is very great.*" —In his next, of the 13th he ſays: " It is impoſſible, in " the general inſurrection which now reigns almoſt uni- " verſally, for me to get the force together the Nabob de- " manded, or to force my way to you with a leſs. The " greateſt anarchy prevails. The preſent inſurrection is " ſaid, and believed, to be with an intention to expel the " Engliſh.—I am compelled to give up all the country be- " low Goonda. Be upon your guard againſt the Vizier, " for there are many circumſtances to make me believe he

" means

Digitized by Google

"means to eſpouſe the cauſe of Cheyte Sing; the *Begums* "have almoſt themſelves recruited for him."

In his next letter, of the 18th, he ſays, "If you meet "but with a check at Benares, every man in the country "is ready to fall upon your ſcattered parties. The ſtate "of the Vizier's dominions is in general beyond deſcrip-"tion:—The inſurrection is not partial, but generally "ſpread throughout the whole, though it rages moſt vio-"lently in the Mahls of Sultanpoor, the Mahls from Fy-"zabad to the Benares country, the Mahls on this (Eaſt) "ſide of the Gogra, and in Koonry Khyrabad and Sylak; "and, if I may truſt to the information I receive, it is al-"ready begun, and will ſoon rage as violently, in Shaje-"hanpore, Rohilcund, Kora, and the Doâb. I have al-"ready, and repeatedly, informed you of the diſpoſitions "of thoſe in power in Fyzabad, which has in fact been "one of the great ſources of the inſurrection, and the place, "of all others in the Vizier's dominions, which has ſup-"plied Chyte Sing with the greateſt number of troops. "The old Begum does in the moſt open and violent "manner ſupport Cheyt Sing's rebellion, and the *inſur-"rection*, and the Nabob's mother's accurſed Eunuchs are "not leſs induſtrious than thoſe of the Burrac Begum.—"Capital examples made of Jewar Ally Khan and Behar "Ally Khan would, I am perſuaded, have the very beſt "effect."

On the 20th, he ſays, after re-ſtating his own immi-nent danger, "I have already written you ſo fully my rea-"ſons of being convinced of the treachery practiſed at Fay-"zabad, and which, I am afraid, extends to your camp, "that I need ſay no more on the ſubject;" and again mentions the general inſurrection.

The truth of theſe poſitions I found moſt fully proved upon my return; but obſerved in particular, that the moſt vigorous efforts were limited to the Jaguirdars, among whom the Begums, Fyzullah Cawn, and Luttafutt Ally Khan, diſtinguiſhed themſelves. However, the Nabob's return, the victories gained by the troops with you, in the total reduction of Chyte Sing's country, and the march of two regiments from Cawnpore to our aſſiſtance here, have unitedly contributed to reſtore matters nearly to their uſual tranquillity. The example moſt neceſſarily to be made, of the two active and turbulent Eunuchs mentioned by Colonel Hannay, remains yet to be done, as well as of a villain now in confinement, who had aſſembled 5,000 Gongwars, for the avowed purpoſe of reſcuing two princi-pal ſtate priſoners from their confinement with the Nabob, and, as it is univerſally believed, to make an attempt upon the treaſury, for which he had fixed the day of the Duſſ-

Digitized by Google

arâh, but was most happily detected, seized only a day before by the vigilance of the Cutwal, and the fact proved by papers found in his house. Unless spirits of this sort be controuled, the worst of consequences may be expected from the neglect, should, which God avert, any fresh opportunities occur.

I have the honour to be, with respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient and
most humble servant.

Lucknow,
the 17th October 1781.

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

A true Copy.
(Signed) Nathaniel Middleton.

No. 15. Qts. A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.
True copies
Nathaniel Midleton.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c. &c.

I have just received intelligence, which I think may be relied on, of the death of the Nabob Nudjiff Cawn.

It is impossible to pronounce with certainty what may be the immediate consequences of this event; the ultimate ones, I have no doubt, will be the total subversion of that extensive government, acquired alone by his powerful influence and high military character, and by which, rather than any effective force, he has been able hitherto to maintain it. I do not know any one of his partizans whose talents, activity, or superior influence over the rest, are likely to create an absolute and permanent authority:—Dissentions, therefore among the principal officers of his army may be expected to ensue; and those Rajahs and Chiefs, who have been deprived of their territorial possessions, will scarcely omit so favourable an opportunity of attempting to retrieve them.

Abdulahd Cawn, the late minister, will probably be restored to office, and his object will naturally be the extinction of every shadow of Nudjiff Cawn's power.

Upon the whole, however, I do not apprehend from this event any consequences which can affect the Honourable Company's interests, or the security of the Nabob Vizier, unless Zabitta Cawn, who it appears has long entertained views of attempting the recovery of his former possessions in Rohilcund, should be prevailed on to consider this a favourable occasion to prosecute them. In such an event, I should think it very probable he would be joined by Fazoola Cawn, who, there is strong reason to believe, is

Digitized by Google

is by no means well affected to the Vizier's government; and who has of late made such preparations, and such a disposition of his family and wealth, as evidently manifest either an intended or expected.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Sir,

Poppamon, the 24th February 1782.

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c. &c. A.

Sir,

Intelligence was this morning received from Delhy, which mentions the death of Nudjiff Cawn; but no more authentic account than the common news-papers having yet been received, either by Mirza Khultul or the Vizier, I cannot yield implicit to the report.—To morrow, intelligence will no doubt ascertain it.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Sir,

Lucknow, 9th April 1782.

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c. &c. B.

Sir,

The intimation which I had the honour to give you in my letter of yesterday's date, respecting Nudjiff Cawn, has been confirmed to-day through various authentic channels, and I have been desired by his Excellency the Vizier to forward you the inclosed address from him on the subject.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Lucknow, 10th April 1782.

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

* * * * * * * * * *

To the Honourable Board. D.

Hnourable Sir, and Sirs,

On the 10th instant, I had the honour to inform you of the death of the Nabob Nudjiff Khan, since which nothing material has occurred in that quarter worth intruding upon you with. Through the interest of the late Nabob's sister, Afraisal Khan has received the charcol, or investiture of succession from the King; but as many of the principal officers

Digitized by Google

ficers of the army refuse or evade submission to the authority of that chief, it is not likely that he will be able to hold his station.

Zabetta Khan, at Ghous Ghur, is arming and entering into alliances with the Seiks. The Nabob Fyzoola Khan, from the best intelligence I am able to procure, carries on a close and secret correspondence with him; he has gone so far as to throw out some very inflammatory discourses in his Durbar; and by this day's intelligence it appears, that some usual restraints have been imposed on my agent, who hitherto had free access at his Durbar to send intelligence of what passed there.

I shall be very watchful of his conduct and motions, and not fail to give your honourable Board regular information of every thing that I may think worth your notice.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,
Honourable Sir, and Sirs,
Your most obedient and most
humble Servant,
(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

Lucknow,
the 15th April 1782.

* * * * * * * *

To the Honourable Board. F.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I had the honour to inform you yesterday of the state of affairs at Delhy; since which, I have received intelligence of the surrender of Nudjiff Cooley Cawn, and the probability of a speedy settlement of the government under the administration of Mirza Shuffee Cawn.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,
Honourable Sir, and Sirs,
Your most obedient, most humble Servant,
(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

Lucknow,
the 15th Sept.
1782.

* * * * * * * * * *

To the Honourable Board. G.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

You will have been informed, by my addresses of the 14th and 15th instant, of the late occurrences at Delhy, and of my sentiments as to the probable issue of them; which stand confirmed by intelligence this day received, of his Majesty's having conferred upon Mirza Suffee Cawn the office of Meer Buxhey, with all the other employments held by the Nabob Nudjiff Cawn.

This measure appears to have yielded universal satisfaction to all ranks of people, excepting those few immediately attached to Affrais-aib Cawn, and, for the reasons assigned in my first address on this subject, may, I flatter myself, prove acceptable to your honourable Board; in which case,

Digitized by Google

I would humbly presume to recommend a letter of congratulation from the honourable the Governor General to Mirza Shuffee Cawn, on his advancement.

We hourly expect the news of an action between the forces of Afrais aib Cawn and Mahemed Beg Amdany, unless the rapid and complete success of Miiza Shuffee Cawn at Delhy should induce the former to submission.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,
Lucknow, Honourable Sir, and Sirs,
the 19th Sept. Your most obedient and humble Servant,
1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c.

Sir,

I had the honour receive your commands of the 10th August, previous to my departure from Patna, and delayed the acknowledgments of them until my arrival at Lucknow, only that I might be enabled to yield you the fullest information and satisfaction on the subject of their contents.

I have had the pleasure to find, upon my arrival, th atthe report of Almas Ally Cawn's flight from the Vizier's dominions was premature. His conduct for some time past no doubt, indicated such an intention, and appears at one time warranted a belief, that his resolution was decidly taken; but although he withdrew himself and his Naibs from the charge of the country, he never broke off his correspondence with the Court, or manifested any disinclination to return to his duty under his Excellency's government, whenever he might be assured he could do it on terms of undoubted security to himself.

The hasty and ill-founded alarms with which the misrepresentations of the enemies of the Vizier's and our own government had impressed him, having been removed by the fullest assurance of security and protection, he has resumed the charge of the districts before held, and I trust his future conduct will merit your forgiveness and continued patronage.

I must intreat, Sir, that you will suspend your judgment upon the state of the Vizier's administration, until I shall be able to lay before you a review of the measures already adopted, and now in agitation, for the regulation of this country, which I have not a doubt will afford the most satisfactory evidence of the happy effect of your arrangements.

Upon the last paragraph of your commands, I must beg leave to refer you to my address of this date to the honourable Board, which I confidently trust you will receive as an acquittal of the responsibility with which you charge me; and,

Digitized by Google

and, as you have candidly rested your decision on my conduct, on the ultimate effect of my exertions to realize the honourable Company's balance, conformably to the assurances I had repeatedly given on that head, I am encouraged to hope for that testimony of your approbation, which it has ever been equally my study and ambition to merit, and which with me must ever constitute an essential part of any satisfaction I could look for, in the most successful discharge of my duty.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Lucknow, Sir,
the 7th Sept. Your most obedient and most humble Servt.
1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

* * * * * *

I have inclosed an address from the Nabob Vizier to the honourable the Governor General on this subject; and am, with the highest respect,

Lucknow, Honourable Sir, and Sirs,
the 17th Sept. 1782. Your most obedient,
and humble Servant,
A true Copy, (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.
Nath. Middleton.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

I have herewith the honour to submit to you, an account of my current claims for the present year upon the Nabob Vizier, amounting to rupees 70,99,882, for which amount I have received assignments, as per the enclosed list, for rupees 76,38,114, in which I have been necessitated to include the Nabob's demand for the current year upon Furrukkabad; and, as his Excellency has now totally withdrawn his Seazamool from the collection of it, as well as every interference whatever, I beg may be honoured with your instructions, whether Muzuffer Jung is to pay the amount at the presidency, or as usual to me. Khyagur is in the same predicament, the Vizier having no authority over the present Aumil. The rest I have little doubt of receiving. For the large balance now due from the Nabob, I am given strong hopes of receiving assetts from the funds expected by the recovery of the Nabob's paternal estate, hitherto withheld by his mother, but which he has now demanded. The result is yet in suspence; as soon as any certainty of the grounds of this expectation can be determined, and may come to my knowledge, I shall not fail to impart it t you.

Digitized by Google

The new regulation of resuming the Jaguiries is carrying into execution in every part of these extensive provinces; and when effected, will afford a very material increase in the Nabob's revenues.

The order of 7 Lacs upon them could not be encreased this year, as, before the seizure can be compleated, the collections upon the first crops will be over; besides which, many of the Jaguirdars having strong family claims upon the Nabob's, he has obliged to assign ready money payment in lieu of the rents of the lands.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
most humble Servant,

Lucknow, the 30th Dec. 1781.

(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

A true Copy.
Signed Nath. Middleton.

LIST of Current Claims upon the Nabob, for the Year 1189.

Balance due to the Paymaster, as per their respective statements, for 1188	14,88,304 — —
Two months pay (as per stipulation) on Mr. Wombwell's office —	3,00,000 — —
Two and a half months pay, (as per stipulation,) temporary brigade and cavalry — —	750,000 — —
Subsidy — —	31,20,000 — —
Extra regiment, as per agreement, a 25,000 rupees per month, for 100 months — —	2,50,000 — —
Abdul Rekeman Cawn —	3,30,000 — —
Sadit Ally — —	61,578 — —
Claims of Mr. Traver, Mr. Marsack, and Co. — —	5,00,000 — —
	70,99,882 — —

True Copy.
(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

ASSIGNMENTS received for the year 1189, on the following Districts.

Rohilcund — —	31,00,000 — —
Corah Doaub, &c. —	12,00,000 — —
Furruckabad — —	7,58,000 — —

Jaguiries

Jaguiries	— —	7,00,000 — —
Barach and Gurruckpore	—	6,50,000 — —
Goonda	— —	3,50,000 — —
Allahabad	— —	4,35,000 — —
Khyragur	— —	1,95,000 — —
Azingur	— —	1,30,000 — —
Sundula Milliabad	—	1,20,000 — —
		76,38,114 — —

True Copy.
(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

* * * * * * * *

ORDERS RESPECTING FURRACKABAD.

Extract of a Letter from the Governor General and Council to Mr. Nathaniel Middleton, Resident at Oude, dated the 11th July 1782.

WE observe that you have not received any part of the sum expected from Furruckabad, and are surprized that you have not intimated, either in your letter to the Board or to the Governor General, the circumstances which have prevented you from receiving any part of the sum expected from the Nabob Muzuffer Jung. Should they proceed from an advantage taken by him of our mediation with the Nabob Vizier, we direct that you immediately afford him effectual assistance for the recovery of what may be due to him from Muzuffer Jung, and expressly withdraw all other interference with that Nabob.

True Extract.
Signed NATH. MIDDLETON.

To Mr. Nath. Midddleton, Collector of his Excellency the the Vizier's Assignments to the Honourable Company.

Sir,

The Governor General intending to visit the dominions of the Nabob Vizier, we therefore direct you to obey all such orders and instructions as he may from this time think proper to issue you in his own name; and in all respects to consider his single authority as of the same force, until this order shall be revoked, as that of the Governor General and Council collectively.

We are, Sir,
Your most obedient Servants,
(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.
EDWARD WHELER.

Fort William,
the 3d July 1781.

To the Honourable Board.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I am ſorry to communicate to your honourable Board the aſſaſſination of Mirza Aboola Beg, Aumil of Goruckpore and Bahrah, by two diſcontented men among his troops, who alſo paid the forfeit of their own lives for their temerity.

I cannot help being under ſome alarms for the poſſible effects which this accident may produce on the general ſtate of thoſe countries, and particularly on the Nabob's aſſignment upon them in favour of the honourable Company, it unfortunately happening at a moſt critical period of the Rubber harveſt, upon which the heavieſt collections fall. Nothing, however, has been left undone, which prudence could ſuggeſt, to prevent confuſion or loſs; Rajah Sonat Sing, Dewan to the preſent and late Vizier, a man of the firſt repute and conſequence in this country, having been deputed to take charge of the collections, and by his influence to endeavour to prevent thoſe inſurrections which might be apprehended among a people naturally prone to rebellion. I have, with the Vizier's concurrence, ordered Major Naylor's regiment to move northwards from Goonda to the diſtricts moſt likely to be diſturbed; and Major Gilpin's regiment being at Fayzabad, the ſmall balance yet due on the Nabob's aſſignment upon the Bhow Begums, is alſo conveniently poſted to act upon an emergency; ſo that I have every reaſon to flatter myſelf the country will ſoon be reſtored to peace and tranquillity, ſhould, contrary to my hopes, theſe meaſures not prove effectual in entirely preventing diſorders.

I have the honour to be, with the greateſt reſpect,
Honourable Sir, and Sirs,
Your moſt obedient
and moſt humble Servant,
(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON,
Reſident, &c.

Lucknow,
the 27th May 1782.

EXTRACTS of Mr. Johnſon's Defence.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Governor General, &c. Members of the Council.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I Received the honour of your commands of the 25th November, conveying the proceedings of the 7th September againſt me, founded upon two letters of aſperſions, ſo general and ſo unſupported by any defined act, that I could not anſwer them otherwiſe than by a negative, as unqualified and equally general.

Digitized by Google

This

This uſeleſs reply I ſuſpended until I ſhould receive the charges on that date promiſed to be drawn up from theſe letters, and other matter not then recorded. Theſe I have now received under 7 heads. The two firſt immediately from the letters, as recorded on the 7th September; the third, upon a part of the ſame letter, not then entered; and the four laſt, complaints of neglect of duty under heads particularized.

Encloſed I have the honour to ſubmit my anſwers to each charge, anxiouſly waiting your final deciſion upon them.

I have the honour to ſubſcribe myſelf, with the greateſt reſpect,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,
Your moſt obedient and
Moſt humble ſervant,
(Signed) R. JOHNSON.

Calcutta,
14th June 1783.

Delivered in 5 July.

1ſt CHARGE, from Hyder Beg's letter, entered Conſ. 7th September 1782.

For aſſuming an unlicenſed authority in prejudice of the Vizier's government, and interfering in the management of his country, in oppoſition to his will, and to the endeavours and remonſtrances of his Miniſter. The particular inſtances alledged are, by appointing Aumils of your own choice, and in ſuch a manner, that no one either attended the preſence of the Nabob, or viſited his miniſters. (See No. 1, mode of appointing Aumils.) (See No. 2, orders.)

ANSWER.

I am nearly as much difficulted to anſwer this abſtract as I am the letter it is taken from, and for the ſame reaſons. It contains no defined act, except in the laſt words, by which it is ſtated, that I have appointed Aumils, but not one is named.

I appointed no Aumils: I recommended more than one; and urged the Miniſter to obtain their appointment from the Nabob (who alone is competent to this act) by every means in my power. Theſe means were limited to re-iteration of requeſt. My duty, as well as my orders, directed me in this. I ſhould have been influenced by either ſeparately, had they not united in one iſſue. I never recommended but upon ſelf-evident neceſſity. Had any one inſtance been na-

Digitized by Google

med, I should thereby have been called upon to trouble the honourable board with a full explanation of that instance. As the charges now stand, a general history would be as vague in its effect, as the Minister's general accusation is.—Other assumption of unlicensed authority is undefined. I deny any, and with it the prejudice to the Nabob's government, equally unexplained. The interference, the opposition to the Nabob's will, and the endeavours and remonstrances of the Minister, are all as unknown to me, as they are unsupported: I can only oppose my negative to them. The particular instances alledged I have answered; to which I must add, that if "the manner of appointing Aumils of my own "choice, so that no one attended the Nabobs presence, or visited the Minister," alludes to the non-attendance of the Aumils themselves, the very nature of the act (explained in No. 1.) refutes it. If it alludes generally to all ranks of people being deterred from going to the Nabob and Minister, I must assert the contrary, and will stand by the proof.

2d CHARGE, from Hyder Beg's letter, Conf. 7 September 1782.

"By exacting Sunnuds "and orders from the pre- "sence at your own pleasure, "and issuing the Sunnuds

ANSWER.

This is as general as the first, which it must be, if my description of the letter it is taken from be true.

Exacting

Digitized by Google

"on your own part, as if "this duty had been held "independent of the Vi- "zier's authority."

Exacting is a very vague term. The mode, degree, and aim of an act, constitutes its criminality; its name does not. I have before said, that urgent and reiterated solicitation, importuning through the Minister himself to the Nabob, were the only means I had. I repeat, that I employed no other. I obtained Sunnuds for the Aumils I recommended: they could not have become Aumils without them. I deemed this a discharge of my duty; I deemed the success a merit: and until an unjustifiable mode of such obtention is proved, or any unjustifiable purpose in the subsequent use of them established, I must continue in this error. This act of independency is disproved by the Sunnud itself, by the issuing of it, and supporting it.

* * * * * * * * * * *

4th CHARGE.

"For neglect of duty, in "not having communicated "to this government any "measures which the state "of affairs in the Vizier's "country might render it "necessary for you to adopt, "if such necessity prevailed."

ANSWER.

No defined measures, under this description, being asserted in my accusation, or acknowledged by me, the necessity supposed is not in agitation; and the neglect of communicating any such, falls, until the affirmative becomes established. I adopted no new measures; but I earnestly and unremittingly pursued the usual track, of the rules laid down to answer the ends they were originally intended for. I al-

lude

Digitized by Google

lude to the instructions for the Resident.

* * * * * * * * * *

The fray at Daranagur was the result immediately brought to an issue, of a dispute between two individuals in the Bazar. The cause, progress, and result, were fully ascertained. The Chiefs of the respective parties rejected all knowledge of and interference in it. Any public question or discussion of it might have proved dangerous. Fyzulla Khan is the most timid of men. The court of Lucknow were so sensible of this, that they offered not a word about it. Such frays, termed Khennah Junghee, occcur perpetually under the best regulated of the Up Country governments. Under all these circumstances, in explanation of the heads mentioned in the charge, I hope it will no longer appear criminal, my not having corresponded upon them to the Board, even had my situation, and distinct trust, not carried upon the face of it the general objection first above stated in the beginning of the answer to this charge.

6th CHARGE.	ANSWER.
"For applying on different occasions to Colonel Morgan, commanding the brigade at Cawnpore for military aid, to enforce the orders of government, and quell disturbances in	I obtained no regiment, or military aid, from Colonel Morgan. One regiment was wanted: in consequence of the Board's letter of the 11th July, Colonel Morgan could not spare one. Of the

Digitized by Google

"different parts of the Vizier's dominions, without any reference, or even information, given to the Board of such applications, or the occasion for them."

the only three regiments employed during this uncommonly busy year, one, the 23d, had been returned to Dinapore; another, the 20th, remained employed at Fyzabad; the third, which was the 3d regiment, Major Scott appeared to have a moment's respite at Sahlone. He was therefore sent. The cause and object of his march arising from the orders of the Board, the *immediate* communication of it did not seem to me so very urgently necessary. If the honourable Board judge differently, I stand liable to the censure, that such an error of judging of the *immediate* necessity of such communication may be thought to deserve. After the departure of the 23d regiment, and the march of the 3d, the respite Bulbudder had given threatened but short continuance. To prevent any risque from this, I availed myself of Colonel Blair's offer (No. 8.) grounded on the Governor General's tender of the troops at the Jaunpore station (No. 7.) and obtained two battalions, which was equal to the one regiment that had been returned. But upon this I shall trouble the Board with no further detail, as it is not included in my charges: and in truth the movement was of little consequence; the frontier camp was neither weakened or affected by it. The number of troops on service were not increased, and they acted very little beyond

Digitized by Google

yond their immediate stations.

7th CHARGE.

But particularly for detaching, by the means of your application to the commanding officer at Cawnpore, one regiment from that brigade, to enforce the Vizier's demands upon the Nabob of Furruckabad, notwithstanding the positive prohibition of any interference from the Resident in the Vizier's claims upon that Nabob; and notwithstanding the further positive prohibition of detachments being required from the brigade, except in cases of extreme necessity: and on all these important occasions, for neglecting to make any communications to this Board.

ANSWER.

I have stated, in the foregoing answer, that I obtained no regiment from Colonel Morgan's brigade. Major Scott's march was laid before the honourable Board in the annexed letter (No. 5.) from the Resident, wherein the whole nature of this transaction is fully explained, so as, I trust, to remove every ground of the criminality couched in this charge; proving it to have been done in conformity with the spirit of the Board's letter of the 11th July 1782. The Governor General's orders alluded to, were of a much anterior date. They were superseded by the letter 11th july, founded upon circumstances that arose after the date of the Governor's first orders, and totally changing the grounds of them.

The 2d prohibition herein mentioned must of course give way, when the Bord direct *effectual* assistance to be given to the Vizier, to realize his claims upon Mozuffer Jung. The least step towards effectual assistance, was to ensure the arrival of the Vizier's negociations at Furruckabad, which was the end of Major Scott's march.

The concluding sentence of this charge, is a recapitulation of what I have answered in detail in the 4 preceding articles.

I having

Digitized by Google

I having offered to the indulgence of the Board all that my immediate ſelf-juſtification ſeemed indiſpenſably to require, againſt the charges as I find them ſtated.

* * * * * * * * *

No. 1.

Mode of appointing an Aumil at the Court of Oude.

After the petition of an Aumil to be appointed, either from himſelf, or the introduction or influence of others, and the election adopted by the Miniſter and Nabob, the old accounts of former years of the province, to be delivered in charge, are produced by the Miniſter from the Dewanna, and other public offices; and upon theſe, after they have guided the agreement of groſs Jumma, he examines the Wageb-ul Arz, a paper written under diſtinct and widely ſeparated heads, expreſſing every requeſt and ſtipulation propoſed by the intended Aumil. Between theſe ſeparate articles, the miniſter writes in his own hand his adoption or rejection of the reſpective claims, in whole or in part. The paper, thus prepared, goes through the Dewannee, Bukſhygaree, Taſſeah, &c. inferior offices, to be examined and regiſtered. After all theſe clear and well-known forms, the Aumil receives his Sunnuds and Shukkah, under the Nabob's great ſeal, with the other checks, counterparts, and confirmation of inferior officers.—The Nabob then grants him ſome of his own troops, to eſtabliſh and ſupport him, if neceſſary; and, finally, in preſence of, and from the Nabob's own hands, the confirmed Aumil receives his Tibberuck or Khelar, upon which he preſents to the Nabob a Nezar, and is at liberty to proceed the firſt fortunate day upon his commiſſion. He then viſits the miniſters and other high officers, to whom he likewiſe preſents Nizirs, and expects beetle, otter, ſhawls, or marks of approbation, favour and protection from them; without which he does not think it ſafe or prudent to ſet out. Of late years, ſince a Reſident has been in that court, who generally has ſo much to do with many of the Aumils (that is, thoſe upon whom the honourable Company's aſſignments are granted), the newly-appointed Aumils, if under this predicament, *and not otherwiſe*, think it alſo right to receive a beetle or ſhawl from him, either at the time of his ſigning, and delivering his acknowledgments of the aſſignment upon him, or any other more convenient period before his departure.

Digitized by Google

No. 2.

Extract from printed Orders; dated Chunar, 19th September 1781.

In the management of the collections, the ministers, with your concurrence, are to chuse all Aumils and collectors; and in their choice to be guided by the responsibility, good reputation, and known abilities of the persons they elect, that changes may, as far as possible, be avoided again. That if the Nabob shall persist in appointing improper officers, disaffected to our government, it is peremptorily to be opposed.

No. 3.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

Intelligence was this morning received from Delhy, which mentions the death of Nudjiff Cawn; but no more authentic account than the common newspapers having yet been received, either by Mirza Chullet or the Vizier, I cannot yield implicit credit to the report. To-morrow's intelligence will no doubt ascertain it.

Lucknow, I have the honour to be,
9th April 1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

Sir,

The intimation I had the honour to give you in my letter of yesterday, date, respecting Nudjiff Cawn, has been confirmed to-day through various authentic channels; and I have been desired by his Excellency the Vizier to forward you the inclosed address from him on the subject.

I have the honour to be,
Lucknow, with the highest respect,
10th April 1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

I have this day receceived confirmation of the death of the Nabob Nudjiff Cawn.

My opinion upon this subject I had the honour to submit to the Governor General, under date 24th February last, upon a premature information of the decease of that Nabob, which hitherto I find no reason to alter. I therefore beg leave to refer your honourable Board to that, as containing every sentiment or information that I can at present offer upon the subject.

The Nabob Vizier seems to think it probable, or possible, that Mahadajee Scindia may be induced, either at the instigation

instigation of his own ambition, or at the King's solicitation, to proceed to Delhy upon this conjuncture. His alarms and apprehensions, upon this head, he states in his letter of this day's date to the Governor General; and, in order to prevent the only one of the two afore-mentioned inducements, which lays within his reach to attempt, he has written an Arzee to the King, assuring him of his attachment to his interests, declaring himself ready to march with his forces to support his views, and mentioning your government as equally well disposed to his Majesty; and finally recommending to him to call in no other foreign aid. He has also written letters of condolance to the late Nabob's family, and others of encouragement to the principal commanders of his armies, advising them to continue firm in their duty and allegiance to the the King, whom he tells them he is marching to Delhi to support. Most of these chiefs were formerly the servants of this court, and many of them connected by blood with the Vizier's family. His Excellency has also made an application to Colonel Morgan to move the subsidiary brigade towerds Etawa, to be in readiness to act, in case any emergency should require it. I have sent his Excellency's application to the Colonel, but have only recommended his holding the brigade in readiness to march to that central station, either upon the receipt of your orders to this effect, or some intermediate urgent necessity occurring, which may preclude the propriety of making any delay whatever. This will, I hope, meet your approbation.

Lucknow, I have the honour to be, &c.
10th April 1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

N°. 4.

Sir,

I had the honour to receive your commands of the 10th August, previous to my departure from Patna; and delayed the acknowledgement of them until my arrival at Lucknow, only that I might be enabled to yield you the fullest information and satisfaction on the subject of their contents.

I have had the pleasure to find, upon my arrival, that the report of Almas Ally Cawn's flight from the Vizier's dominions was premature. His conduct for some time past, no doubt, indicated such an intention, and appearances at one time warranted a belief that his resolution was decidedly taken; but, although he withdrew himself and his Naibs from the charge of the country, he never broke off his correspondence with the Court, or manifested any disinclination to return to his duty under his Excellency's government, whenever he might be assured he could do it on terms of undoubted security to himself.

The hasty and ill-founded alarms, with which the misrepresentations

Digitized by Google

representations of the enemies of the Vizier and our own government had impressed him, having been removed by the fullest assurances of security and protection, he has resumed the charge of the districts he before held; and I trust his future conduct will merit your forgivines and continued patronage.

Lucknow, I have the Honour to be,
7th Sept. 1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

No. 5.

Extract of Letter from the Resident, dated 7th September 1782, to the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, and the Members of the Supreme Council, Fort William.

I have received the honour of your commands of the 11th July, observing, "that I have received no part of "the Tunka upon Furruckabad and have never intimated "the cause in my addresses either to the Board or the Governor General; and, upon a conception that the payment withheld may have proceeded from an advantage "taken by the Nabob Muzuffer Jung of your mediation "with the Nabob Vizier, you direct, in such case, that I "immediately afford his Excellency effectual assistance for "the recovery of what money may be due to him from "Muzuffer Jung, and expressly to withdraw all other interference with the Nabob."

Upon this article the Honourable Board have anticipated my reply, by adverting to what they conjecture may have been the cause of the total failure in the collections from Furruckabad, which was, as they have justly supposed, an improper advantage taken by Muzuffer Jung of the mediation employed with the Nabob Vizier in his behalf. I have therefore, immediately upon receipt of your orders, withdrawn all mediation and interference which stood between the Nabob Vizier and the collection of his tribute from Furruckabad, and afforded him the assistance directed by sending a regiment to support the Sezawal appointed by his Excellency for the collection of the tribute of the ensuing year; and have added my instruction to the same Agent, to collect the assignment of seven and half Lacks first above-mentioned, upon the tribute and balances due to the end of the current year: And, as I have anticipated the success of this trust, by raising this amount among the other balances, as above stated, I have the satisfaction to reflect that the Honourable Board will not even feel the inconveniency arising from the delay that the mediation in favour of Muzuffer Jung has occasioned.

Translation

Digitized by Google

Translation of a Letter from the Resident at the Vizier's Court to the Nabob.

To Muzuffer Jung.

After the usual compliments---I have received your letter recapitulates the contents). The generous and liberal motives which induced the Governor General to employ the mediation of the Company between the Nabob Vizier and you, are known to the whole world, and require from me no explanation. It is equally notorious what has been the effect produced by that mediation; which, however you may have understood it, I am well assured was never meant to impede, still less wholly to preclude, the collection of the Nabob Vizier's just claims upon you: The communication I have received from the Governor General, from the first to the last, respecting the nature and object of his indulgent mediation in your behalf, have corresponded invariably with my own opinion on that subject. In his first letter relative to this matter, he informs me, that he has consented to exert his endeavours with the Vizier, to remove the restraint and controul which had been laid upon you for the collection of the tribute, and to prevail on his Excellency to receive his dues through your Agents, instead of employing his own; for which purpose he has given the necessary instructions to Meer Suffoola Cawn, and dispatched him to the Nabob Vizier and myself, to adjust the accounts depending between you and his Excellency, and settle the future mode of payment.——The Vizier most readily acceeded to the Governor General's wishes on this point; and his Excellency's Agents, and all sort of interference with the government, were in consequence instantly withdrawn. But this was done upon the faith of the Governor General's assurances, that you would take effectual care to prevent a measure, which had been adopted principally for your relief, from impeding the liquidation of the Vizier's legal and just claims. And, agreeably to the intimation I had from the Governor General, I waited patiently the arrival of Sufftoola Cawn: But, to my utter surprize, I learnt that, instead of coming here as directed, he went straight to Furruckabad, and publickly declared you excused from any further claim of the Vizier. —This being so contrary to the tenor of the Governor General's advices and commands to me, that I considered it merely a piece of artifice of Sufftoola Cawn's, to raise his own credit and consequence, and supposed you as well as myself imposed upon;—having repeatedly written to you, in consequence of the Vizier's claims upon you having become a part of the funds assigned for the liquidation of his

Excellency's engagements to the East India Company, without receiving any explicit or satisfactory answer, and no payments either made or seemingly intended;—I was under the necessity of referring the matter to the consideration and decision of the Governor General, who, seeing the improper advantage which had been taken by you and your Agents of his well-intended mediation, to the great prejudice of the Vizier, and the consequent injury of the Company's engagements with him, thought proper to withdraw any further interferrence between you, and to leave the Vizier again uncontrouled in the prosecution of his just and reasonable claims upon you. The Vizier has thereupon been pleased to appoint a Sizawal for the collection of the balance due from you, as also for the provision of funds for the payment of the ensuing year's tribute: and it is proper I inform you, that, as before it was my duty to use every means in my power to prevent any interferrence with your government, so it now becomes incumbent upon me to yield every assistance I may be able to the Nabob Vizier, to enable him to assert and recover those rights which the perversion of an indulgence so generously procured for you has hitherto withheld from him.

What more shall I say?

N. B. Muzuffer Jung, instead of tendering payment of his tribute through his own Agents, constantly denied owing any thing to the Vizier. He and his Agents, during the whole year, appear totally to have mistaken the Governor General's humane interposition.

The Vizier and his Ministers, foreseeing this probable consequence, insisted upon the Furruckabad tribute being included among the Company's assignments, as appears in the following letter.

Sir,

I have herewith the honour to submit to you an account of my current claims for the present year upon the Nabob Vizier, amounting to rupees 70,99,882; for which amount I have received assignments, as per the inclosed list, for rupees 76,38,114, in which I have been necessitated to include the Nabob's demands for the current year upon Furruckabad: and, as his Excellency has now totally withdrawn his Sizawal from the collection of it, as well as every interferrence whatever, I beg I may be honoured with your instructions, whether Muzuffer Jung is to pay the amount at the Presidency, or as usual to me?—Khryragur is in the same predicament, the Vizier having no authority over the present Aumil. The rest I have little doubt of receiving. For the large balance now due from the Nabob, I am given

Digitized by Google

given strong hopes of receiving assets from the funds expected by the recovery of the Nabob's paternal estate, hitherto withheld by his mother, but which he has now demanded: the result is yet in suspense. As soon as any certainty of the grounds of this expectation can be determined, and may come to my knowledge, I shall not fail to impart it to you.

The new regulation of resuming the Jaguires is carrying into execution in every part of these extensive provinces; and, when effected, will afford a very material increase in the Nabob's revenues.

The order of 7 lacks upon them could not be increased this year, as, before the seizure can be completed, the collections upon the first crop will be over; besides which, many of the Jaghiredars having strong family claims upon the Nabob, he has been obliged to assign ready money payment in lieu of the rents of the lands.

Lucknow, I have the honour to be, &c.
30th Dec. 1781. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

N°. 6.

To Major Thomas Scott, commanding the 8th Regiment marching to Furruckabad.

Sir,

The duty you are marching upon to Furruckabad, is to establish an Agent, going, on behalf of the Nabob Vizier, to demand and collect the tribute due from the Nabob Muzuffer Jung.

By the last advices, the chief manager of the Nabob Muzuffer Jung's Affairs, named Subktulla Khan, has resolved to oppose this measure. But no information upon this subject is to be relied upon, but what you may obtain upon your arrival, or from Mahomed Seyed Khan and Raja Harranund, the Agents going from the Nabob Vizier: the latter of these two, is the man whose knowledge and exertions dependance is placed in the execution of this trust; and with him you will be pleased to consult upon the nature of such support as he may require in his business.

Lucknow, I have the honour to be,
9th Sept. 1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

No. 7.

Sir,

I was this day honoured with your commands of the 10th instant, informing me of the military station you have established at Juanpore, with the liberty you grant the Nabob Vizier, of claiming their aid to quell any disturbances in the adjacent parts of his provinces. I have accordingly

Digitized by Google

communicated it to his Excellency, who, with great justice, was highly pleased with the disposition, as in truth the districts bordering upon the Zemindary of Benares have for a long period of time been of all others, the most turbulent and disaffected; and nothing less than the arrangement you have now formed could effectually secure the peace and tranquillity in that neighbourhood, so essential to the prosperity of the Nabob's government and revenues.

I have the honour to be,

Fayzabad, with the greatest respect.

13th Jan. 1782. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLELTON.

P. S. I have the honour to inclose you a letter from the Vizier, in reply to your last to his Excellency.

No. 8.

To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire, Reside at Lucknow.

Sir,

I beg to acquaint you, that the officer commanding the troops at present posted at or near Juanpore, consisting of two regiments of Sepoys, the 2d regiment of cavalry, with a detachment of artillery, and five pieces of ordnance, is instructed by me to supply you with a military force, should you require one, on any emergency, in the Nabob Vizier's provinces; and he is further directed, in case of any such requisition, to furnish you with necessary assistance, without delay, or waiting for any further orders from me.

I am to request, in case you find it necessary to apply for any part of the troops under my command, that you will be pleased, as soon as convenient, to acquaint me with the nature of the service they are required to perform.

Chunar, I am,

29th Jan. 1782. (Signed) WILLIAM BLAIR.

To Mr. Nathaniel Middleton, Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Sir,

When his Highness the Vizier did me the honour of a visit at Chunar, he made me a request that we might have an interview once in every year, for the purpose of discussing and adjusting the mutual concerns of the company and himself, and of improving the harmony and confidence which subsisted between the two governments. To this requisition I readily assented, and greatly lament that the situation of affairs makes it impossible for me to effect a meeting at this time. The present important conjuncture demands the united and vigorous exertions of both governments for the common safety and success; and in this situation, whilst the greatest cordiality is requisite, you in-

form

Digitized by Google

form me that his Highneſs is much diſſatisfied in many points contained in our late agreement, and which he made his own requeſt. To remove his uneaſineſs on theſe ſubjects, and to give a laſting cement, and increaſe of ſtrength and reciprocal advantage to our alliance, would be impracticable by any other mode than verbal communication, explanations, and aſſurance; and as, for the reaſon above aſſigned, I cannot make this in perſon, I think it indiſpenſable to delegate the truſt to another. For theſe purpoſes I have deputed Major Palmer to attend his Highneſs and his miniſters at Lucknow. Major Palmer as you know, has been my confidential ſecretary for ſeveral years; I have diſcloſed to him, without reſerve, my ſentiments on every point of the relative connection between the company and the court of Owde, and I can only rely upon him for a faithful explanation of them.

I have alſo intruſted Major Palmer to give the moſt expreſs aſſurances to the miniſters of my approbation of their conduct, and determination to protect and ſupport them, ſo long as they preſerve their attachment to this government, and purſue the real intereſts of the Vizier.

Major Palmer has the public objects in charge which he will perſonally communicate to you, and I moſt earneſtly require of you the ſtrongeſt co-operation of your authority and influence towards his attaining them. I think his ſucceſs almoſt certain, if he meets with your cordial ſupport and aſſiſtance. Whatever may be the event, a conſiderable ſhare in producing it will be attributed to you, and affect you accordingly.

Such explanations as are intended ſolely for the ſatisfaction of the Nabob, and coming from myſelf, I have directed Major Palmer to communicate ſeparately to him; but, in doing this, to uſe every precaution to avoid any diminution of your authority or influence.

I have ſent Major Davy as a confidential aſſiſtant to Major Palmer; but, in caſe any accident ſhould happen to the latter, to execute his commiſſion.

Fort William, I am,
7th May 1782. (Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.

Ordered, That theſe papers be circulated to the members of the board, for their opinions on them.

Extract of Bengal Secret conſultations, 25th Auguſt 1783.

THE following minute having been received from the Governor General on the 22d inſtant, orders were immediately ſent to the Accountant General, to prepare the account deſired; and to Mr. Middleton, to aſſiſt in furniſh-

Digitized by Google

ing him with such materials and explanations as may be necessary for that purpose.

Governor General. Friday, 22d August 1783.

Having read in Mr. Wheler's minute, of the 13th instant, the following paragraph, viz. "The amounts which Mr. "Middleton asserts he has realized, together with the sums "specified in his various statements, ought, I conceive, "to be ascertained by the Accountant General," I propose that Mr. Miller be directed to prepare a correct account of all the sums realized by Mr. Middleton in the course of the Fussullee year 1189, and that Mr. Middleton be ordered to assist in furnishing him with such materials and explanation as may be necessary for that purpose.

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 28th of August 1783.

Received the following letter and enclosure from the Accountant General:

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

In obedience to your commands of the 22d instant, I have the honour to lay before you herewith a statement, shewing the amount of sums realized and brought to account by the late Resident at the Vizier's court, in the course of the Fussullee year 1189: The same amounting to Fyzabad sixteen sun sicca rupees 1,37,96,228. 5. 8. including Teeps or Pauts of Shroffs for 45,05,041. 1. 10 of the same species of rupees.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,
Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) JAMES. MILLER.
Actg. Acco. Gen.

Accountant General's Office,
25th August 1783.

Statement of the Sums realized by the late Resident at the Vizier's Court, in the Fussulee Year 1189, commencing the 3d September 1781, and ending the 21st of September 1782.

Balance remaining in the Treasury the 3 Sept. 1781 — —		11,817 1 0
Realized as follows, viz.		
From the Nabob Vizier's assignments, collected — —		35,77,294 9 9
From the Shroffs, on account of the balance of the assignments, viz.		
In bills and Pawts	20,42,409 12 2	
In cash —	3,82,038 4 2	
	24,24,448 — 4	

Deduct

Deduct			
The Balance of the Jaguires included in the above —	2,13,368 7 4		
	22,11,079 0 —		
Resumed Jaguires Collector —	4,86,631 8 8		
Balance received from the Soroffs as above	2,13,368 7 4		
	7,00,000 — —		
Received from the Begums treasurers	48,45,222 13 3		
Do. in Teeps accepted by the Resident	24,62,631 5 8		
		1,37,96,228 5 8	
Fyzabed 16 Sun Sicca Rupees		1,38,08,045 6 8	

Fort William,
Acco. General's Office,
27 August 1783.

Errors excepted
(Signed) JAMES MILLER,
Acting Acco. General.

Received the following letters from Mr. Middleton:

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

I have been honoured with your commands through your secretary, and in obedience thereto I immediately waited on the acting Accomptant General, to offer him any assistance in my power in furnishing materials for the statement you have been pleased to order him to form of the total amount realized by me in the Fussullee Year 1189; but he required none, having all my accounts for that year complete before him, with which I am truly happy to have had an opportunity to observe his statement perfectly agrees.

The aggregate is Fyzabed Siccas 1,38,08,045. 6. 8. which makes current rupees 1,53,26,930. 5. 11. equal to the gross sum in rupees of sorts stated in my reply to the charges preferred against me by the honourable Board.

I must hope the honourable Board will pardon me, if, in my own justification, I venture to draw their attention to two particular circumstances of the above-mentioned amount. First, That I realized, without one rupee of balance, the assignments I received; a degree of success that never before attended the exertions of any Resident; And, secondly, That the total amount far exceeds, I might per-

Digitized by Google

haps ſay, doubles the amount ever before remitted to the Preſidency.

I have the honour to be, &c.
Honourable Sir, and Sirs,
Calcutta, Yours, &c.
25 Aug. 83. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

To James Peter Auriol, Eſq. Secretary to the Honourable the Governor General and Council.

Sir,

By ſome freſh queries made to me by the Acting Accountant General, I find that he has been called for a different arrangement of my collections in 1189, from that which he gave in laſt.

Upon his preſent ſtatement (perfectly agreeing in its total amount with the laſt) I muſt beg leave to remark, for the information of the honourable Board, that the ſum of Fyzabed Sicca Rupees 20,42,409. 12. 2 which he ſtates, includes all the balances of the aſſignments, and with them the aſſignment of ſeven lacks upon the reſumed Jagheers.

I have the honour, &c.
Calcutta, Sir, yours, &c.
27 Aug. 1783. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

Extract of Bengal Secret Conſultations, 4th September, 1783.

Mr. Wheler having left the following minutes, containing his opinion upon the defence of Mr. Middleton, Mr. R. Johnſon, and Mr. Briſtow, before his departure for Bogglepore, they are now entered, and have ben circulated.

Auguſt 13th 1783.

Mr. Wheler.—The queſtion regarding the conduct of Meſſrs. Middleton and Johnſon, at their late offices of Reſident and aſſiſtant at Lucknow, having been long before the Board for conſideration, I think it neceſſary that my opinions ſhould at this time be recorded, and inſerted in diſpatches that are ſhortly to be tranſmitted to Europe.

I have peruſed with the greateſt attention every article of the accuſations againſt Mr. Middleton; but ſhall forbear to give a ſeparate opinion upon each, or to enter into a voluminous diſcuſſion of a ſubject which may with equal propriety be taken up in a ſummary manner.

There are many points in which Mr. Middleton's conduct appears cenſurable.

1ſt. Delays in carrying the Mooteyana regulations into effect, or at leaſt omitting to furniſh the Board with ſuch information

information and explanations as could enable them to judge how far this article of his inſtructions had been fulfilled.

2dly. Omitting to take any notice of the conduct of Almas Ali Khân, and agreeing to an increaſe of that perſon's farms, at a time when it is evident, notwithſtanding Mr. Middleton's explanation, the meaſures Almas had purſued were of a nature highly alarming to the Vizier, as well as dangerous to the intereſts of the Company.

3d. In generally ſuffering the Board to remain uninformed of points which merited their attention, and upon which he ought to have obtained their orders.

4th. Diſobedience to the Governor General's inſtructions, by deviating from the plan laid down by him for conducting the buſineſs at Fyzabad.

In theſe points, in particular, Mr. Middleton's conduct appears to me reprehenſible. His duty to the Company ought to have prompted him to a ſtrict attention to every part of the Governor General's commands.

The Governor General, it appears, anxious to carry into execution the meaſures ſpecified in the treaty of Chunar, propoſed to proceed himſelf for that purpoſe to Lucknow, provided Mr. Middleton did not find himſelf competent to the undertaking; and he generouſly withheld from Mr. Miiddleton all reſponſibility, until he, the Reſident avowed himſelf equal to the taſk, and agreed to take that reſponſibility wholly upon himſelf. Such conduct ought to have awakened in Mr. Middleton every exertion he was capable of: Not a moment's delay ſhould have taken place in executing the important commiſſion which was now entruſted, in ſo particular a manner, to his management.

The Governor General became juſtly alarmed at the delays which on the part of the Reſident took place; and his complaints in conſequence were in every reſpect well founded, until a proper explanation of ſome particular points arrived. But Mr. Middleton's defence has conveyed to us that explanation, and has elucidated many matters, which, froma want of proper information by letter, appeared perfectly myſterious.

It appeared, for inſtance, that a large ſum was left unpaid by Mr. Middleton of the Nabob's debt; whereas by the papers now laid before the Board, it ſeems that the whole debt was actually now liquidated by the negociations alluded to with the Shroffs. Theſe negociations were never before properly explained. I believe every member of the Board held the ſame opinion regarding them with that which I at firſt adopted; namely, that the tranſaction was nothing more than a mere loan, for which the faith of the Company was pledged: And that being the caſe, the Nabob's debt could not with propriety be ſaid to have been paid off. But

Digitized by Google

But it now clearly appears, by Mr. Middleton's defence, that the Company's security never was pledged; but, on the contrary, that the Nabob borrowed the money from the Shroffs on his own credit, giving for security assignments upon districts which were but newly resumed by his Excellency, and never before pledged to the Company; and that with the money raised by this means it was, that the whole debt due from the Nabob to the Company, at the end of the last year, was discharged.

The measure of reducing some part of the Mooteyana troops, as Mr. Middleton states it, appears unquestionably to have been a wise one, as the saving which arose from it enabled the Nabob to keep up four regiments of well-disciplined troops, in lieu of a lawless as well as useless rabble.

The amounts which Mr. Middleton asserts he has realized, together with the sums specified in his various statements, ought, I conceive, to be ascertained by the Accountant General, for the satisfaction of the Board. Should those accounts hereafter appear to have been accurately stated, it will be evident that the receipts from Oude have exceeded any sum that was ever before received thence in one year. The annual collections from the lands assigned to the Company have never, I believe, before the period in question, amounted to more than eighty Lacks of Rupees. Mr. Middleton appears to have realized 1,46,00,000, of which 76,00,000 were assigned to the Company at the commencement of the year: And this was the utmost extent of our receipts, until the treaty of Chunar was concluded; from which the Company certainly derived a great accession of wealth and resources, at a time when the exigencies of their affairs critically required such a supply.

Although Mr. Middleton's conduct is censurable in the points I have stated, yet, when I am to give my voice in pronouncing sentence upon an officer of government, who has filled so important a station as that gentleman has done for many years, I think it my duty to take into consideration the whole of his conduct, so far as it has any relation to the subject of complaint now before me; and, upon maturely weighing each circumstance, I venture to pronounce, that, from the explanations given by Mr. Middleton, he seems in general to have fulfilled his duty, regarding the principal objects of the treaty of Chunar; and that, for such parts of his conduct as appear censurable, dismission from his office, and the marked disapprobation of the Board, have constituted a punishment at least equal to his offence.

August 14th 1783.

Mr. Wheler.—The representation transmitted to this Board, by the Nabob Vizier and his Minister, against the

Digitized by Google

conduct of Mr. Johnson, and the consequent apprehensions resulting therefrom, were of so alarming a nature, and such immediate mischiefs seemed to threaten both the Vizier's and our own Government, as fully to justify the sudden resolution which was taken by the Board, as the only effectual means then in its power instantly to stop the pending and growing evil.

I am nevertheless of opinion, that the circumstances urged by Mr. Johnson against the charge of assuming an unlimited authority, which it must be admitted bear strong marks of authenticity, and the prompt submission which Mr. Johnson had shewn to the orders of the Board, operate so much in his favour, that, if they do not amount to a full vindication, they should at least be allowed to mitigate the offence of assuming so extensive an authority at the Vizier's court.

It does not appear, from the circumstances stated by Mr. Johnson, that he meant to lay aside the claim for ten lacks of rupees; but, on the contrary, he admits it to be good against the Vizier, by adding to it a claim amounting to seventy-two lacks, which was also about that time preferred by this government against the Vizer. The resident, it seems, considered himself immediately accountable to goverment for the sum stipulated to be paid by the treaty of Chunar; and the resources within his command were not adequate to the discharge of so considerable an addition to the sum stipulated to be paid by that treaty, in the course of the current year: And Mr Johnson, in point of official regularity, may appear correct in admitting the old claim upon the Vizier in preference to the new. Yet, as the claim of ten lacks had been established in behalf of the Company, or to remain as a deposit with them, he ought not to have entered into any explanations with the minister regarding it, or to have listened to any arguments that had a tendency to invalidate it, or to evade the payment of the whole or any part of that debt.

The negociation for realizing the balance claimed by this government, in addition to the sum agreed on and adjusted by the treaty of Chunar, appears to have been calculated to produce a sudden and immediate supply of cash, at a time when it must be allowed it was much wanted: And as the districts which are usually assigned over to the payment of the Company's demands upon the Nabob were not burthened by this negotiation; but, on the contrary, as the burthen fell upon lands which had been long withheld from, and were but newly resumed by, the Nabob; the only blame which, in my opinion, can possibly be attributed to this transaction, will result from a conviction, that the terms on

Digitized by Google

on which this negociation was closed, ultimately proved disadvantageous to the Nabob, by the resident having entered into improvident engagements with the bankers, for the advance of fifty lacks. To decide upon this question, it requires both local knowledge and experience in the money transactions of that country; as the scarcity of cash at one time will make that interest appear reasonable, which from a greater plenty at another, shall, with equal propriety, be termed usurious.

There was no officer of this government at Lucknow, to whom Mr. Johnson was authorized to relinquish any part of his authority as acting resident; therefore he ought not, nor could he be warranted in yielding it up to Major Palmer, who had no appointment or official powers, from this Board, to act or to interfere with the presidency at Oude. In this instance, Mr. Johnson has acted with a degree of imprudence which merits censure; and as the relinquishment of the polital department of his office to Major Palmer cannot be justified on the grounds he states, or indeed on any principles, it cannot with any propriety be urged by him in apology, for endeavouring to rid himself of the responsibility which naturally devolved to him, as soon as he came in charge of the office by the absence of his senior.

I shall not enter more at large upon the different articles of Mr. Johnson's defence, but give it as my opinion, that, in those particular points where he appears most censurable, he erred in judgment, and not intentionally; for which I deem the loss of his office a sufficient punishment.

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 22d Sept. 1783.

Mr. Stables.—As the papers sent to me, regarding the conduct of Messrs. Middleton and Johnson, relate to transactions which happened before my arrival, I beg leave to decline giving my opinion upon them.

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, 6th October 1783.

Read the following letter from Mr. Richard Johnson:

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

A packet being now on the eve of being dispatched to Europe, permit me humbly to remind you, that my case remains still undecided before you; and to express my hopes, that I may be indulged with a decision before it departure.

I have the honour to be,
Honourable Sir, and Sirs,
Your humble Servant,
(Signed) R. JOHNSON.

Calcutta,
29 Sept. 1783.

Extract

Digitized by Google

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, 13*th October* 1783.

Mr. Macpherson.—After having perused, with the utmost attention and consideration, Mr. Middleton's reply and defence to the charges made out against his late management at Oude, and drawn up by the secretary from the public records, it does not appear to me that he has exculpated himself from the 2d charge, the 4th, the 7th, the 10th, the 12th, the 13th, nor particularly from the 16th charge, on the subject of Fyzulla Cawn; a subject which appears, by the dispatches of the Court of Directors of the 14th February 1782, to have given them much uneasiness. The late arrangement with that chief has fortunately established his dependance upon the Company on a just and secure footing.

The Court of Directors, who are the proper tribunal in cases where the conduct of their subordinate servants has met with censures from their administrations in India, have now the subject of Mr. Middleton's management at Oude fully before their view. The investigation of Mr. Bristow's conduct in the same department, under different accusations, will throw an additional light upon the subject; and it is to be hoped that such regulations may be ordered from home, in consequence, as may establish our connection with the Vizier's country and affairs on a more definite system.

I must, in justice to Mr. Middleton, avow, that good temper, and a conciliating manner, seem to plead in his favour, even where he appears to have been remiss in the public service. The difficulties of so extensive and involved a department are likewise to plead their weight.

(Signed) M'P.

Mr. Macpherson.—The charges which the Secretary has made out from the Records against Mr. Richard Johnson, for his conduct as acting resident at Lucknow, are in some degree imperfect, from the want or loss of one of the original letters, which stated his mismanagement.—He has not availed himself of any advantage by this deficiency, but has avowed his conduct relative to the principal charge about 10 lacks; accusing the Vizier's minister, Hyder Beg Cawn, of the arguments which he was said to have used with the Vizier, to prevent him from transferring to the Company the sum which he meant for the Governor General in that donation. The original letter of complaint against Mr. Johnson is since found, and entered on the Record. The court of Directors will determine whether Mr. Johnson's arguments are sufficient to vindicate him in this important transaction. As the transaction

was

Digitized by Google

was ſtated to me in September 1782, when Mr. Johnſon was ordered to quit his ſtation, I conſidered it as equally injurious to the wiſhes of the Governor General and replete with infidelity on the part of Mr. Johnſon to his employers: It remains ſtill to be cleared up between Mr. Johnſon and Hyder Beg Cawn. I had underſtood, at the time, that the ten lacks were in bills, and not a mere offer to pay ſuch a ſum from the future revenues of the country. If in this tranſaction Mr. Johnſon is ſuppoſed to have eſpouſed the intereſt of the Vizier againſt that of the Company, the firſt charge, of oppreſſion againſt the Vizier's Government, loſes in proportion on the ground of its evidence.

The 4th and 5th charges conſtituted the principal grounds on which Mr. Johnſon was removed from his ſtation, and with ſuch violent marks of diſpleaſure of this government. Mr. Johnſon had, with Mr. Middleton, attended the Governor General when the treaty of Chunár was made. The Governor Generel underſtood the treaty to be in every reſpect conformable to the wiſhes of Vizier; and Meſſrs. Middleton and Johnſon, who knew the ſtate of the Vizier's country, and the powers of his government, thought both could be maintained in order and ſecurity under the protection of the Brigade at Cawnpore, and by the propoſed improved ſyſtem of internal government—Our troops at Futty Ghur were accordingly withdrawn; and independent corps, under the command of Engliſh officers, were annulled.

The reſult of theſe arrangements ſo little correſponded with the expectations of this government, that in a few months they became apprehenſive for the actual ſafety of the Vizier's country. Almas Ali Cawn, in charge of a very great part of the Vizier's revenues and forces, had thrown off all obedience to the Vizier. The ſpirit of revolt was extending. Two of the Vizier's battalions were cut off in a conteſt with ſome of Fyzulla Cawn's horſe, at Darnagur. Mr. Anderſon informed us, from Scindia's camp, upon the confines of the Vizier's country, that the diſtracted ſtate of Oude was a ſubject of ſpeculation in the Maratta camp. Yet, during ſo critical a period (and it became moſt alarming while Mr. Johnſon was acting reſident) he furniſhed this government with no official intelligence that applied to the real ſtate of affairs. Colonel Hannay, Major Davy, and other officers of credit, who came immediately from the Vizier's country, confirmed the accounts given of the diſtracted ſtate of affairs there. It was ſuppoſed a general confuſion would immediately enſue: Propoſitions that might tend to increaſe that confuſion looked very ſuſpicious: thoſe about reſuming Fyzulla Cawa's Jaghier by force had that appearance. On the

7th

Digitized by Google

7th September 1782, the very day on which Major Davy brought me from the Governor General, who was then ill, the letters of Major Palmer and Hyder Beg Cawn, on the ſubject of Mr. Johnſon's conduct, and on which he was removed from office, I was credibly aſſured that he had ordered Fyzulla Cawn's Vakeel at Lucknow to be publicly diſgraced.

The meaſure of recalling, effectually and ſuddenly, a public agent, thus ſuſpected, was certainly neceſſary, as well as that of marching a body of the troops, though in the ſeaſon of the rains, for the ſecurity of the Vizier's country.

Fortunately the views of Almas Ali Cawn were contracted by a revolution of a party at Delhi. Sir John Cumming effected his march before the diſturbances in the Vizier's country got to a greater height: but it is now alledged, by Mr. Middleton and Mr. Johnſon, that Almas Ali Cawn had never abſolutely rebelled; that the loſs of the Vizier's battalions at Darnagur happened in a ſcuffle; and that the uſual good order prevailed over all the Vizer's dominions, at a time when they were repreſented to be in confuſion. Mr. Johnſon alledges further, that he ſtood relieved of political correſpondence, during the ſhort period of his acting as reſident, by Major Palmer, to whom Mr. Middleton, on the 18th of June 1782, transferred the political department of the reſidency at Oude.

The Court of Directors, after a due conſideration of the ſtate of affairs at the time, and after comparing Mr. Johnſon's defence with the charges urged againſt him, are alone competent to his acquittal, if his vindication appears to them ſufficiently explanatory.—It is a juſtice which I owe him, and which I readily render to him, to confeſs, that I believe the repreſentations of the confuſions in the Vizier's country were in ſome degree exaggerated by prejudice, and the diſappointment of ſome whoſe intereſts were affected by the arrangements of the treaty of Chunar.

(Signed) M'P.

Extract of Bengal Secret Conſultations, the 25th Nov. 1783.

The Secretary lays before the Board the following letter from Mr. Middleton:

Sir,

I had the honour to receive your letter of the 10th inſtant, tranſmitting me, by the permiſſion of the Honourable Board, copies of the minutes on which their final reſolution reſpecting the charges againſt me was founded, for which I beg leave to tender my acknowledgments: and I muſt now further intrude upon you to prefer my requeſt to the Honourable

Digitized by Google

nourable Board, that they will extend their indulgence ſo far, as to permit you to furniſh me with copies of the minutes and proceedings which paſſed upon my removal from my ſtation at the Vizier's court; together with the ſubſequent ones, in conſequence of which my charges were prepared, and ſent to me under date the 12th June laſt; and, finally, extracts of ſuch paragraphs as may have been inſerted in the general letters to the Honourable Court of Directors reſpecting my caſe.

Calcutta, I have the honour to be, &c.
24th Nov. 1783. (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

Agreed, That Mr. Middleton's requeſt be complied with, and ordered accordingly.

* * * * * *

In conſequence of the opinions delivered by the Governor General, and other members of the Board, on the defence made by Meſſ. Middleton and Johnſon againſt the charges exhibited againſt them, the following letters were drawn up by the Secretary, and are approved by the Board.

* * * * * * * * * *

To Mr. Richard Johnſon.

Sir,

I am directed by the honourable the Governor General and Council to acquaint you, that, having read with attention your anſwers to the charges, of which a copy was tranſmitted to you, together with the ſeveral papers which you annexed to them as an appendix, the Board are of opinion that the 1ſt and 2d charges are ſubſtantially proved by the facts admitted in your defence of thoſe parts of your conduct at Lucknow to which they relate.

3d. The Board decline paſſing their judgment upon the iſſue of the 3d charge, but leave it in reference to the Honourable the Court of Directors to decide upon your reply to this article.

4th. The 4th charge is fully proved by the known ſtate of the Vizier's country at the time, by your differences with his Miniſter, and the evident deficiency of your correſpondence with this government.

5th. The defeat and diſperſion of two of the Nabob Vizier's battalions, which you acknowledge, but call a fray; the notoriety of Almaſs's defection; the inſolence of the treaty concluded by him with his maſter; the fears expreſſed by Mr. Anderſon for the iſſue of his negociations, leſt they ſhould be impeded by the diſtracted ſtate of the Nabob Vizier's dominions; and the lengthened hoſtilities with the rebel Bulbudder, which have but recently ſubſided with his death; are all proofs of the truth of the 5th charge. The

Board

Digitized by Google

Board have no knowledge of Major Palmer's having been entrusted with the political department of the resident at Lucknow; on the contrary, it appears, by the appendix to your defence, that he was sent up for a special service, and ordered "to use every precaution to avoid any diminution "of your (the Resident's) authority or influence." Had Major Palmer deviated from this part of his instructions, you should have represented it to us, and stated the injunction which you had received from Mr. Middleton, relative to Major Palmer's having been charged with the political department.

6th. Whether your applications were made to Colonel Morgan, or to any other person, the detachment of the Colonel's troops on military service in the Nabob's Vizier's dominions, without immediate communication to this government of the measure, and of the cause for it, was certainly improper and reprehensible.

7th. Of this charge the Board deem you fully acquitted.

With respect to the transactions with the Bankers, of which, though directly charged against Mr. Middleton, you acknowledge your share of the responsibility, the Board leave it to the Honorable the Court of Directors to judge of the expediency of that measure, and the mode of its execution.

Upon the whole, although the Board consider your conduct blameable in several instances, they are also of opinion, that you have been sufficiently punished by the deprivation of the office which you held, and by the sudden manner in which the nature of the complaints and evidence then before them induced them to recall you to the Presidency.

21st October.

Approved by Governor General.

Extract of General Letter from Bengal; dated 20th October 1783.

Par. 53—For the particulars of the charges which were against Messrs. Middleton and Johnson, for their conduct at Lucknow, together with their respective defences, and our several opinions upon them, we beg to refer you to the consultations noted in the margin. [28 July, 28 Aug. 4 Sept. 13 and 21 Oct.]

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 10*th November*, 1783.

The following letter from Mr. Richard Johnson to the Secretary was received and circulated on the 1st instant; and the opinions which are recorded after having been received, Mr. Johnson's request was accordingly complied with.

Digitized by Google

To J. P. Auriol, Esq. Secretary.

Sir,

You was so good as to obtain for me from the Board permission to furnish me with a copy of the proceedings of 7th September 1782: permit me now to trouble you to apply for leave to furnish me with a copy of the proceedings and minutes, from which my sentence has been abstracted; as also a copy of the paragraph in the general letter, by the Lively, desiring the Court of Directors to suspend their judgments upon the proceedings against me, until my charges, defence, and sentence, might be laid fully before them.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, &c.
(Signed) R. JOHNSON.

Fort William,
31st Oct. 1783.

In Circulation.

A letter to the Secretary from Mr. Richd. Johnson.

The Orders of the Board are requested with respect to a compliance with Mr. Johnson's request.

Saturday morning.

(Signed) E. HAY, Sub. Sec.

I have no Objection. — W. H.
By all Means. — — M'P. (Signed)
With all my Heart. — J. S.

The following letters from Mr. Richard Johnson having been also received and circulated, the minutes recorded after them were returned to the Secretary.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, &c. Members of the Council, Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I was yesterday honoured with your commands of 21st instant, through your Secretary.

Allow me to express my most hearty acknowledgments for your declaring me fully acquitted of the 7th charge, and grant me your indulgent attention to the request I have to make upon the remainder of the sentence.

You have been pleased to declare me guilty of the 1st, 2d, 4th, 5th, and 6th charges—not guilty of the 7th—and the 3d you decline any opinion upon; referring it to the Court of Directors, together with the transaction with the Bankers.

It is probable that there can be no evidence before the Court of Directors, beyond what is before your honourable Board, to enable them to clear up what you cannot determine upon. By referring part of my case to them, my fate

fate again becomes in so far protracted to an eventual issue of 18 months: and, as you have been pleased to declare me sufficiently punished by my removal, this additional sufferance would militate against such declaration. Let me, therefore, solicit you to pass a determinate opinion of guilt or acquitted upon these two heads; as the Court of Directors, in their pursuit of justice, must be benefitted by the assistance of your sentiments given on the spot, so much nearer to the impression and conviction of local evidence.

Further, as the tendency of apparent intentions in any act is generally understood to go far in establishing the criminalty of that act, it might be of service to the cause of justice, if your honourable Board would be pleased to go one step further in the explanation of your opinion upon my conduct, by adding to the whole of your sentence a declaration, Whether the acts which you fix upon me appear to have been effected with any criminal intentions against the interest of my employers; or whether they appear to have originated in an erroneous judgment of the orders I acted under; or, in short, whether they were stimulated by a malicious and wanton exertion of misplaced power on a good intention ignorantly pursued.

I venture to crave this additional opinion, not only to mark your explicit sentiments upon my conduct, for the full information of the Court of Directors; but also to serve, in the event of a favourable decision, as an aid and support of myself in soliciting your further employment, in the hope of being now indulgently deemed qualified to undertake such duty, in the general business of the service, as the honourable Board may be pleased to allot me.

I have the honour to be, with great respect,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Your most obedient

Fort William, and humble servant,

31 Oct. 1783. R. JOHNSON.

To Edward Hay, Esquire, Secretary.

Sir,

Since troubling you with my address of the 31st ultimo, to the honourable Board, I have received the honour of your letter of the 3d instant, with its enclosures: I beg leave to return my acknowledgments for the indulgence thereby granted me.

The minutes contain sufficient grounds to answer my address of the 31st, without further trouble to the Board, if they will be pleased to permit you to transmit the sense thereof to me, in addition to the decision of the 21st ultimo,

 on

on my case: under this idea, permit me to trouble you with the following remarks.

My letter requests a decision on the 3d charge, without reference to the Court of Directors. Upon this head I find, in the Governor General's minute, the following words: "*I do acquit him* (Mr. Johnson) *of this charge on public* "*ground.*" Upon the same subject Mr. Wheler says, "Mr. Johnson, in point of official regularity, may appear "correct in admitting the old claim upon the Vizier in "preference to the new." These two favourable extracts, if they are not the unmixed tendency of the resolution of the Board, yet they shew ground for not leaving this charge to the distant decision of the Court of Directors, which is the whole aim of my request on this article.—Again, upon the loan from the bankers, Mr. Wheler says, "*it appeared calculated to produce a sudden and immediate* "*supply of cash, at a time when it must be allowed it was much* "*wanted.*" This was, in truth, the drift of the measure. The same minute adds, "that as the burthen fell not on the "usual assignments for the Company, but on newly "resumed funds, *the only blame which* (in Mr. Wheler's opi-"nion) can possibly be attributed to this transaction, lays "in the *terms*, and even this must depend (he says) on local "knowledge." Upon this I also would beg leave to observe, that this opinion, the sole relative to me on this subject, affords grounds to condemn, mitigate, or acquit me for my share of any criminal intention in this transaction, without further reference.

These are the two points which regard the first part of my address.

The second part is, an opinion requested upon the general criminal tendency of that part of my conduct, which has been arraigned in the charges. Upon this I am happy to unite the following conclusions of the minutes of the Governor General and members, who give opinions on my conduct.—The Governor General says, "that (comparatively) *my* "*faults are mere errors and inadvertencies.*" Mr. Wheler says, "It is my opinion, *that in those points where Mr.* "*Johnson appears most censurable, he erred in judgment, and* "*not intentionally.*" Mr. M'Pherson says generally, "that "he thinks it justice to Mr. Johnson to confess, that he "believes the representations of the confusions in the Vi-"zier's country were in some degree exaggerated by pre-"judice, and the disappointment of some whose interests "were affected by the arrangements of the treaty of Chu-"nar." I would willingly hope, that these three opinions might clearly unite in forming a favourable answer to my second request. Had these been extracted in conclusion to the other resolutions of 21st instant, I should not have troubled

Digitized by Google

troubled the honourable Board with my last address. I hope self-partiality has not misled me to make partial extracts; if I have, the whole is yet before the Board, and their final resolution will be alone guided by their own candid and impartial sentiments; and as I have no doubt that they will preferably lean to the side of indulgent lenity, than to that of harsh justice, I flatter myself they will, if possible, admit the favourable construction to be inferred from the above extracts, although they should appear more drawn by what I wish them to mean, than their absolute expression.

Once more recommending myself to their indulgence, I subscribe myself, Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant.

Calcutta,
4 Nov. 1783.

(Signed) R. JOHNSON.

Mr. Johnson, 2 letters.

The Board having declared Mr. Johnson guilty of the 1st, 2d, 4th, 5th, and 6th charges exhibited against him, and given it as their opinion, upon the whole, that "he "has been sufficiently punished by the privation of the "office which he held, and by the sudden manner in which "the nature of the complaints and evidence then before "them induced them to recall him to the presidency," they think it now proper to add, that the reference, in his case, to the honourable the Court of Directors, is only intended to be made upon those general principles, by which all the acts and proceedings of this government are referred in course to them, for their final approbation and confirmation; but that the sentence is absolute; as it would be hard, after having recorded an opinion that he has been sufficiently punished, to refer any part of his sentence to further punishment.

With respect to Mr. Middleton, the Board have pronounced him guilty of all the charges prepared against him; but he has likewise suffered a removal from his station, and they have not thought proper to sentence him to any further penalty; nor do they leave it in reference to the Court of Directors to do so, but transmit the enquiry into his conduct to them on the same general principle above-mentioned; and it will rest with them to take cognizance of his case, if they shall think proper. I am of opinion, that the reference should not be particular, but considered as made upon the same general principles by which all the acts and proceedings of this government are referred, in course, to the Court of Directors, for their final approval or disapproval of them.

(Signed) E. W.

 It

If the majority of the Board are of the preceding opinion, on the subject of Mr. Johnson's defence, it is a resolution of the Board of course: and I believe the words *sufficiently punished by removal from office*, in Mr. Wheler's and the Governor General's minutes, imply the resolution; but I refer, in my minute on Mr. Johnson's defence, particular charges, and the answers to them, to the opinion, and of course *determination*, of the Court of Directors.

(Signed) M'PHERSON.

The following letter was in consequence written to Mr. Johnson by the Secretary:

Mr. Richard Johnson.

Sir,

I am directed by the honourable the Governor General and Council to acknowledge their receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, in answer to which, as well as to your letter to me of the 4th instant, I am ordered to acquaint you, that the reference, in your case, to the honourable the Court of Directors being intended to be made upon those general principles, by which all the acts and proceedings of this government are referred in course to them, for their final approbation and confirmation, it stands as follows in the Board's general letter to the Court of Directors, p r Nerbudda.

"For the particulars of the charges which were prepared "against Messrs. Middleton and Johnson, for their con-"duct at Lucknow, together with their respective defen-"ces, and our several opinions upon them, we beg to refer "you to the consultations noted in the margin."

Council Chamber, I am, Sir, &c.
10th Nov. 1783. (Signed) E. HAY,
Sub Secretary.

The following application from Mr. Middleton having been circulated on the 6th instant, Mr. Middleton's request was complied with, and he was accordingly furnished with the opinions of the members of the Board on the charges preferred against him.

To J. P. Auriol, Esquire, Secretary to the Honourable the Governor General and Council.

Sir,

I have received the honour of your letter of 21st ultimo.

I have now only to request that you will be pleased to ask the permission of the honourable Board to furnish me with a copy of the proceedings and minutes upon my defence, from

from which the final resolution of the Board has been abstracted.

Calcutta, 3d Nov. 1783.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.
NATH. MIDDLETON.

In Circulation.

A letter from Mr. Middleton.—The orders of the Board are requested upon it.

6th Nov. —83. (Signed) E. HAY.
Sub Secretary.

I have no objection,	W. H.	(Signed.)
Agreed. —	M'P.	
— —	E. W.	

Extract of General Letter from Bengal; dated 30th December 1783.

Par. 5. Messrs. Nathaniel Middleton, John Charles Middleton, and William Markham, having desired our permission to resign the honourable Company's service, we have accordingly granted them permission, and they proceed to England by the ships now under dispatch.

Extract of Bengal General Consultations, the 5th Jan. 1784.

THE following letter from Mr. Middleton having been received and circulated since the last meeting, the minutes which are entered after it were returned.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

An impaired constitution, from the effects of near twenty years constant residence in this country, and more particularly the circumstances of my domestic concerns, strongly pressing my return to Europe, I have to request, in consideration of both, that you will be pleased to grant me permission to resign the honourable Company's service, and to proceed with my family to England, on the ship Barwell.

It affords me the most sensible mortification, that on this occasion, under the predicament I have the misfortune to stand in, I cannot hope to obtain from the honourable Board that ample testimony of my conduct, during my continuance in the service, which it has ever been equally my endeavour and ambition to merit; but as the declared displeasure of your honourable Board has been confined to my conduct in the last twelve months of my residence at the court of Oude, the particulass whereof are already in reference before the honourable the Court of Directors, I must

Digitized by Google

must crave from your indulgence such mention in the general letter of my conduct and services, previous to that period, as in your judgment they may appear to have deserved; for which I shall be very thankful.

Calcutta, 21st Dec. 1783.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.

The Governor General has no objection to a recommendation of Mr. Middleton, in the terms he requires.—He has already given sufficient testimony of the estimation in which he held Mr. Middleton's conduct in the charge which he held by two successive appointments (on the special request of the Governor General) previous to the last, by the unceasing endeavours which, it is too well known, were used by him for the continuance of Mr. Middleton in that office; and that he was animated in the support of Mr. Bristow solely by the consideration of public duty, is as evident, from his requesting the removal of Mr. Middleton, when the conduct of that gentleman appeared to him exceptionable, in opposition to the suggestions of common prudence, which might have withheld him, had he had any other interests or concern than the public at heart, to connive at what he saw blameable in Mr. Middleton's conduct, rather than, by inflicting so public a censure on it, to discredit his own judgment in the confidence which he formerly reposed in Mr. Middleton.

Mr. Stables.—I agree to the recommendation of Mr. Middleton in the terms of his letter.

Mr. Macpherson.—As the members of the government, who were witnesses of Mr. Middleton's services previous to my arrival in Bengal, assent to it, I have already expressed, in my minute on the subject of the charges against him, my opinion of his ability and temper.

In conformity to the above minutes, Mr. Middleton was recommended to the Court of Directors in the general letter per Barwell.

COPY

Digitized by Google

COPY PROCEEDINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO THE STATE AND CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY OF OUDE, AND ITS DEPENDENCIES, AND OF THE REIGNING FAMILY THEREOF, INCLUDING THE CHARGES MADE BY MR. HASTINGS AGAINST MR. BRISTOW, LATE RESIDENT AT THE COURT OF THE NABOB VIZIER; ALSO CORRESPONDENCE, &c. RELATIVE TO ALMASS ALI KHAN; THE PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO MR. HASTINGS'S LAST DEPUTATION TO LUCKNOW; AND THE CORRESPONDENCE OF MAJOR PALMER, TOGETHER WITH HIS INSTRUCTIONS.

Copy of the Treaty of Chunar.

THE Nabob Vizier Ul Mumalie Asoph Ul Dowlah Asoph Jaw Cawn Behadre, having repeatedly and urgently represented, that he is unable to support the expences of the temporary brigade, cavalry, and English officers, with their battalions, as well as other gentlemen who are now paid by him under the denomination of Sebundy, &c. &c. and having made sundry requests to that and other purposes; and as the constancy and firmness of his alliance with the company entitle him to every consideration and relief that may depend upon us. I Warren Hastings, Governor General, Imadut Dowlah Jelledut Jung Bahadre, &c. &c. on behalf of the Governor General and Council, have agreed to the under-mentioned articles, this 19th day of September, in the year of our Lord 1781, corresponding to the last of Ramzan 1195, of the Hidjeree.

1st. That the temporary brigade, and three regiments cavalry be no longer charged to the Nabob's account for the Fussullee 1189, excepting a term of two and a half months, which is required for their passing the Nabob's boundaries, and for which, together with all former arrears, their usual pay and allowances are to be made good. Also the English officers with their Sebundy, battalions, and other gentlemen, excepting the Resident's office, now upon the Nabob's list, be no longer at his charge for the year 1189, the arrears being paid up, with the addition of two months allowances. The true meaning of this being, that no more troops be paid for by the Nabob than the number of European artillery and Sepoys agreed for under title of one brigade with the late Nabob Sujah Ul Dowlah, now paid for at the rate of 2,60,000 rupees per month, to which is now to be added one regiment of Sepoys of the present establishment

establishment, expressly allowed for the purpose of protecting the office, treasury, and person of the Resident at Lucknow, the pay and allowances of which are to commence from the first of Aughun next, at the rate of rupees 25,000 per month, the regiment to be relieved every three months, the brigade to be stationed or moved wherever the Nabob shall direct, in the mode prescribed in the former treaty with the Nabob Vizier deceased; and finally, that whenever the Nabob Vizier shall require a further aid of troops from the company, the pay and allowances shall commence from the day of their passing the Caramnassa; also, should the assistance of the Nabob's troops be required by the company, their pay and allowances, as may then be agreed upon, be allowed during the time they may serve.

2dly. That, as great distress has arisen to the Nabob's government from the military power and dominion assumed by the Jaguierdars, he be permitted to resume such as he may find necessary, with a reserve, that all such for the amount of whose Jaguiers the company are guarantees shall, in case of the resumption of their lands, be paid the amount of their net collections, through the Resident, in ready money.

3dly. That as Fyzoola Cawn has, by his breach of treaty, forfeited the protection of the English government, and causes, by his continuance in his present independent state, great alarm and detriment to the Nabob, he be permitted when time shall suit, to resume his lands, and pay him in money, through the Resident the amount stipulated by treaty, after deducting the amount and charges of the troops he stands engaged to furnish by treaty, which amount shall be passed to the account of the Company during the continuance of the present war.

4thly. That no English Resident be appointed to Furruckabad, and the present one recalled.

5thly. That the treaties made between the English and the Nabob Sujah Ul Dowlah be ratified between the present parties, as far as may be consistent with the above written articles; and that no officers, troops, or others, be put upon the Nabob's establishment, exclusive of those herein stipulated.

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS. (L. S.)

A true Copy.

(Signed) E. Hay,

Sub Secry. to the Honble. Board.

To

Digitized by Google

To Mr. Nathaniel Middleton, Resident at the Court of the Nabob Vizier.

Sir,

Having, on the 19th instant, entered into certain engagements with the Nabob Vizier, tending to relieve his finances of a burthen they were no longer able to sustain, with sundry other clauses, the execution of which is entrusted to you, I herewith inclose an authentic copy of the same for your guidance. The Nabob on his behalf has subscribed and sealed an agreement in your presence, and in the presence of Mr. Richard Johnson and Hyder Beg Cawn, respecting the better administration of his affairs, of which I also transmit you an authentic copy.

To these papers, and to the points consequently and necessarily dependant on them, I think it necessary to add the following instructions, to which I require your most implicit obedience.

I need scarcely inform you, that my chief object in my negociations with the Nabob has been to induce and assist him to bring his government and finances into such regularity, as to prevent his alliance being a clog instead of an aid to the company; and to enable him to discharge his debt in the shortest time possible. To this end the most essential point is to limit and separate his personal disbursements from the public accounts; They must not, in their total annnal amount, exceed what he has received in any of the last three years. This amount, in twelve equal parts, should be paid him monthly, out of the first receipts, and the remainder of the net collections placed separately in a public treasury, from whence his public, military, and civil establishment must be paid, under the sole management and controul of the ministers, with your concurrénce. It is of course to be understood, that this has no connection, and is in no shape to interfere, with the Company's assignments, and the collections upon them, which are to be conducted as usual; and as, by the addition of the Jaghier lands with their revenues to the Nabob's regular collections, his income will, or ought to be, considerably encreased, I shall expect that the whole of the excess be appropriated to the discharge of the Nabob's debt to the company.

After settling the amount of the personal disbursements of the Nabob Vizier and his household, the next point that will require your exertions towards the general arrangements of the public charges, is the reform of the established Muttaeena troops, reducing them into one established corps for the whole service: If this corps should be brought to consist solely of cavalry it would best answer mutual benefit, leaving no infantry in the Nabob's service but what may be necessary for his body guard; and to supply the deficiency, should

ſhould any occur from ſuch arrangement, our infantry may be employed where infantry are wanted.

The corps reformed and eſtabliſhed, their pay muſt be iſſued from the public treaſury, no aſſignment to be in future granted them, and thoſe already iſſued to be recalled; to complete this, all numbers above what the real ſervice may require, or the actual net receipts may be adequate to the full payment of, muſt be diſbanded as faſt as their arrears can be paid off.

The Nabob will ſelect and appoint his own commanders, but if he ſhould nominate improper perſons, ſuch as men commonly known by the name of orderlies, or others deriving their influence from them, or of known diſaffection to our government, you are in ſuch caſe to remonſtrate againſt it, and if the Vizier ſhall perſiſt in his choice, you are premptorily and in my name to oppoſe it, as a breach of his agreement.

For the management of the collections, the miniſters with your concurrence, are to chooſe all Aumils and Collectors, and in their choice to be guided by the reſponſibility and good reputation and known ability of the perſons they elect, that as far as poſſible changes ſhould be avoided.

Much is to be ſaid, though little may now ſuit, upon the ſubject of the diſtribution of juſtice in the Nabob's dominions; for the preſent I limit myſelf to direct you to urge the Nabob to endeavour gradually, if it cannot be at once, to eſtabliſh courts of Adawlet throughout his diſtricts; the Daragahs, Moulavies, and other officers, of which muſt be ſelected, as in the caſe of the Aumils, by the miniſters, with your concurrence; the want of theſe courts is equally hurtful to the revenue, government, and reputation of the Nabob.

In conſequence of the diſturbances which the rebellious example of Raja Cheyt Sing has cauſed in the Nabob Vizier's country, I have inſtructed Colonel Morgan to aſſiſt you in the requiſition of the Vizier, communicated by you to him, or at your own ſingle application, if any caſe of emergency ſhould make it needful, with ſuch detachments as may be neceſſary, excluſive of the regiment of Seapoys which is ſtipulated to remain with you at Lucknow: This power you are not to riſque but in caſes of the moſt urgent and manifeſt neceſſity. It is directed that the regiment ordered for the immediate protection of your office and perſon at Lucknow, ſhall be relieved every three months and during its ſtay there ſhall act ſolely and excluſively under your orders.

It is finally my poſitive order that you do not permit any Britiſh ſubject, or others claiming the name and protection of the Company, to reſide at Lucknow, or within any part

Digitized by Google

part of the dominions of the Nabob Vizier, except the officers and soldiers of the army acting in their duty, and such persons as are officially appointed to remain there; and that to such as are now at Lucknow, or in any other part of his dominions, and falling within the description of the above exception, you give due notice in writing that they quit the country, allowing them a reasonable time, not exceeding three months, to settle their affairs; and in case of their refusal you are to inform the Nabob thereof, that he may use his own authority to compel them to depart.

Chunar, I am, Sir,
23d Sept. 1781. Your most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.

A true Copy.
(Signed) E. Hay,
Sub Secry. to the Honble. Board.

Extract of Bengal General Consultations, the 11th February 1783.

Received the following letter, and enclosures, from Mr. Bristow:

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Although, in your orders to the officer commanding on the frontier station, the line of his duty is pointed out with a degree of accuracy and precision that in my apprehension could not be misunderstood, yet the conduct of Sir John Cumming for some time past has marked a disposition very repugnant, as I conceive, to the spirit and letter of his instructions, and to the declared purpose of his appointment. The premptory language that gentleman has adopted to signify to me his determined resolution to persist in a mode of procedure which I am apprehensive may be eventually attended with the worst consequences to the affairs of the Company and of the Nabob, has left me without any alternative, and compelled me, however reluctantly, to submit to your honourable Board the whole of the correspondence that has passed between us on this occasion. It will be altogether unnecessary that I should solicit your speediest decision, since a bare recital of the facts, as they are stated in the enclosures, will, I humbly presume, sufficiently evince the urgency and importance of the subject in dispute and I flatter myself, gentlemen, determine you to an immediate interposition of your authority. To bring the whole in one point of view before the honourable Board, I have thought it necessary to give a summary of the several enclosures,

Digitized by Google

enclofures, and taken the liberty to add a few remarks on their refpective contents.

Colonel Cumming's unqualified tender of military aid to Khojah Ein Udeen, the Aumil of Rohilcund, the Duftuck iffued, and Sepoys detached by him, as fet forth in No. 1, are indubitably fo many direct violations of your orders; and you will perceive, gentlemen, from Khaujah Ein Udeen's letter to me, inferted in the fame number, that the Aumil has not failed immediately to avail himfelf of the latter circumftance to plead, and perhaps truly, a confiderable lofs of revenue. No. 2, contains an addrefs from Colonel Cumming to the Nabob, on the fubject of his correfpondence with Khaujah Ein Udeen. His Excellency's anfwer difapproving his procedure altogether, was accompanied by a letter from me, which drew from Colonel Cumming a reply, dated the 23d January, alfo addreffed to me: He therein affures me, that his firft letter to the Aumil of Rohilcund meant nothing, though it was certainly written in a ftyle that expreffed every thing. A Duftuck under his hand and feal, drawn out in all the neceffary forms, as appears from the original in my poffeffion, and exprefsly remitting the government duties, he qualifies, by calling it a paffport; and he informs me at the fame time, that it has been his conftant practice to grant fuch paffports. As to the appeal he wifhes to make with refpect to the propriety of his demeanour heretofore, it is nothing to the purpofe, fince the queftion is not what he did formerly, but what he has actually now done. His explanation regarding the Sepoys he fent to apprehend the robbers is fcarcely intelligible, being perplexed and blended with a variety of extraneous and nugatory matter, and told with the moft tedious prolixity, which he oppofitely terms cutting the ftory fhort; he concludes, however, by flatly acquainting me that he is prepared to repeat the experiment the very firft opportunity, fo little does he underftand his orders, and fo little is he aware of the mifchiefs that muft unavoidably enfue, if taking the law into his own hands, and in contempt of your moft pofitive commands, he prefumes on any pretence whatever to detach without authority an armed force into the Mofuffil. As it feems to be Colonel Cumming's intention to fix a charge of inconfiftency upon me in his mention of the detachment to Sandy Pauly, I muft crave leave to fay a few words in explanation of that circumftance: —Mr. Hamilton reprefented to me, that he had paid the duties for fome merchandize, and his boats were ftopped by a Zemindar in Sandy Pauly. I requefted Colonel Cumming to grant that gentleman his affiftance. I had previoufly applied to the Aumil Jadeloll, who informed me his diftricts were in great confufion, and he doubted if his force would

Digitized by Google

would be sufficient to effect the release of the boats. Upon this I made the above application to Colonel Cumming, with the consent and indeed advice of the Aumil, the person entrusted with the government of the country in which the outrage had been committed: He likewise directed his Naib to use his endeavours to release the boats.

When Colonel Cumming informed me he could not do the service without an extraordinary exertion, I begged he would desist. I did not assign any reason, nor did I represent the result to the Vizier, because I thought it giving him unnecessary trouble, and the detachment was more usefully employed with the Sezawul of Furruckabad.

If I understand the nature and intention of Colonel Cumming's appointment, it is in his military capacity alone he can have occasion to address the Vizier at all; and for reasons strictly obvious, he has your express orders, on every such occasion, to make the resident the channel of his communications; yet in the last paragraph of Colonel Cumming's letter, he declares himself privileged equally with the Resident, to correspond with the Vizier, his Ministers, &c. and avows his resolution to avail himself of this privilege *on all occasions.*—I beg leave, gentlemen, to request your most particular attention to the contents of the enclosure, No. 3, whence it will appear that Colonel Cumming, in strict conformity to this resolution, without giving me the smallest intimation of his design, has addressed a letter immediately to the Vizier, recommending the march of his whole force to Anoopcher, and requesting to know his Excellency's pleasure thereupon. I must confess I was greatly surprized and alarmed when the Nabob communicated to me its contents; the serious consequences with which this unadvised and most unwarrantable procedure might have been attended, had not the utmost harmony subsisted between his Excellency and myself, immediately presenting themselves to my mind. If the conduct of Colonel Cumming in this instance admits of aggravation, it is that he had just before replied to a letter I had written him, expressing my apprehensions with respect to the intentions of the Sikes, in a style calculated to persuade me that there was little reason to be alarmed; it was therefore the more indispensably incumbent upon him to apprize me instantly of any subsequent occurrences which might induce a change in his sentiments.—The enclosure No. 4, is a letter from Colonel Cumming to Hyder Beg Cawn, which, as it was also addressed immediately to that minister, is a further proof that it is his serious intention to maintain an uncontrolled correspondence at his Excellency's Court. For the rest Colonel Cumming, I know not upon what grounds, complains heavily and repeatedly

of

of the indignity offered to a man of his rank, at the same time that he seems to consider your representative and the Nabob himself, as persons of no consequence whatever, and the style of his letter, whenever he speaks of them, is perfectly consistent with these sentiments, being without ceremony. —To save the honourable board the trouble of a reference, I have the honour to inclose No. 5, a copy of their commands to me, dated the 24th October 1782, together with an extract of their instructions to Colonel Sir John Cumming of the 17th September 1782: I do not conceive it possible to frame others more pointedly expressive of your intention, or I would beg the favour of you, gentlemen, to issue such to Colonel Cumming: I have therefore only to request that you will interpose your authority to enforce those you have already thought proper to give to him; and I have the honour to subscribe myself, with the most profound respect,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Lucknow, 28th Jan. 1783. Yours, &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,

Resident at the Vizier's Court.

P. S.—I beg leave to intrude upon your attention my ideas of the authority of the resident, when officers may be detached upon his Excellency the Vizier's service. This point had been a subject of correspondence between Colonel Cumming and myself; and the following is the extract of a letter I wrote to him, under date the 21st ultimo, and to which he alludes in the enclosure (No. 2) where he charges me with assuming military authority.

"I think it my duty to instruct and point out to officers "upon detachment, the service to be executed; they are "not to enter into any negociations, or have any trans-"actions with the servants of the Vizier's government, "Zemindars, or others, except with the express permission "and sanction of the Resident. My instructions I shall "frame agreeable to the orders I may receive directly from "the Vizier, or through his ministers, and I may claim "obedience on all revenue and civil matters.

"The officers upon command are surely to report these "operations to the Vizier, who can form his arrangements "upon no other lights than the information of the persons "employed upon this service. The Resident is the chan-"nel of communication."

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,

Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Extract

Digitized by Google

Extract of a letter from Khaja Ain ul Dien to Cutwant Roy, his Vakeel, at Lucknow; dated the 13th Suffer.

Explain to the presence the circumstances respecting Colonel Cumming, who is at Furrackabad, which are these: He first sent me two letters in terms of friendship, and a third informing me he had received orders from the Governor to assist me; he afterwards wrote and sent a Dustuck to the Tannadar of Jellalabad, to the following purport, "That he should send the horse merchants:" and also wrote a letter to me to the same purport, which I complied with. He afterwards wrote me a letter, by my Hircarrah, in answer, that I should, in the same manner, send other horse merchants. To-day he sent me another, informing me that "robberies having been committed by my people, "he had sent a guard to seize Seewa, Zemindar of the "village Bunniary, in the jurisdiction of Morabad." I sent the letter, that you may understand every circumstance. From these arrests two evils will arise; first, as they make my presence necessary; and again as they interrupt the collections; for these reasons I thought it necessary to write you on the subject.

Translation of a Dustuck to Munoon Cawn, Phousdar of Illalabad, enclosed in the above letter.

Dustuck to Munoon Cawn, Phouzdar, of Jellalabad, to the following purport: The horses that are coming with Amamet Cawn, and Noor Cawn as I ordered, are not permitted to pass, on account of the duties of the road and Zemindary.—Why is this? You must let them quickly come to me: Know this is a positive order, and act accordingly.—Written the 6th January, or the 2d Suffer, in the year 1197 Hegira.

Translation of a letter from Colonel Sir John Cumming, dated 6 Suffer, to Khaja Ain ul Deen, enclosed in his letter of the 13th Suffer.

The friendly disposition of the English towards the Nabob, and their zeal for his service, are well his known. His confidence in them, how great!—Inspect the enclosed letter from the governor, who has intrusted me to defend and give assistance to the Vizier's dominions; and as I have a particular regard for you, Sir, I shall always be happy to render you any service in my power. When you want the assistance of the army, write to me without ceremony, and I will send you the number of troops you require. As it often happens that horse dealers pass through your country, if you will send a few fine horses with the carravan, I shall be much obligedto you.

What more can I write?

Digitized by Google

Translation of a letter from Colonel Sir John Cumming, dated the 13th Suffer, to Khaja Ain ul Dien, enclosed in his letter of the same date.

It is curious, that the excesses of the thieves are such, that there is not a night passes without their stealing some things from the brigade and from the gentlemen in it; but it is still more curious, that when night comes, the Firorkabad road is shut up. When Hircarrahs were sent to enquire, it appeared that all these excesses were promoted and encouraged by your dependants, and the Zemindars of your district. Yesterday, when a company of Sepoys were sent to take the thieves, and the stolen goods, which had been proved by the Hircarrahs to be in the village of Bunniary, of the Talook of Seewa, Zemindar under you, the peasants rose to defend the stolen goods by force of arms. On hearing this I sent a battalion to punish them; they, on receiving intelligence of its march, burnt the goods of the English Company, such as apparel, &c. in sight of the first detachment, a few excepted, which were taken by force from the house of the Zemindar by the battalion, who also made prisoner Munkullee, brother of the Zemindar; the rest fled to various places. I examined the goods they brought, which are now in my possession. It is necessary to inform you, property to the amount of 50,000 rupees has been stolen from the brigade, and the Zemindars of your Pergunnah have been proved to be the robbers. These practices are very extraordinary, and this conduct very distant from your duty as an Aumil, on which account I write, that Seewa, Zemindar of the village Bunniary, should be sent to me, that I may get the goods of the English Company from him; if not, and there is delay, you are answerable for them.—What more can I write?

N. B. Munkullee, brother of Seewa, Zemindar, deposes, "I took three thieves with their goods, which I secured, and carried them both to Khoga Kerim Ally, of Dewan Bustyram." This circumstance is more wonderful than all, that Khoga Kerim Alley did not take the thieves, or send the goods belonging to the English Company to the Brigade; I therefore consider the said Khoga as a party in these robberies; and it is necessary, on the arrival of this letter, that you should also send Khoga Kerim Ally, and the money he has belonging to the Brigade; nevertheless, as my first wish is on all occasions to act conformably to your pleasure, I excuse your brother Khoga Kerim Ally, but it is absolutely necessary you should send Seewa Zemindar.

Translation

Digitized by Google

Translation of a letter from Khoga Ain ul Dien to Mr. Bristow, resident at the Vizier's court.

The several Zemindars have entered into engagements with me to apprehend and suppress all kinds of banditti. Certain robbers having plundered the camp at Firockabad, in passing by the village of Bunniary, in the Purgunnah of Morahbad, were obliged by the Zeminder of that district to relinquish the stolen goods. On the arrival of two companies of Sepoys which had been sent from camp in pursuit of the robbers, the aforesaid Zemindars acquainted them with the transaction, and bade them take the property, if it belonged to them. The soldiers, however, accused the Zemindars as being themselves the promoters of all the robberiers committed in camp, and seized and carried off the adherents of the Zemindars of Bunniary, the consequence of which is, that the terrified inhabitants of the village aforesaid, have absconded, and the collections of that district, amounting to 15,000 Rs. lost to the Sircar, from the inability of the Zemindars to pay them. I am therefore to request you will be pleased to give orders, that no military detachments from the camp at Firockabad may be suffered in future to enter the Mofussul

A true translation.

(Signed) J. NEAVE,
Assistant to the Resident
At the Vizier's Court.

Translation of a letter from Colonel Sir John Cumming to the Vizier.

At no period since the brigade was first stationed in those provinces, were robberies so frequent as at present. The camp is nightly infested by the Banditti, and the Zemindras become every day more insolent and turbulent, and steal goods from the gentlemen. When Hircarrahs were sent to seek the stolen things, it appeared, that the Zemindras under Khaga Ain ul Dien supported them. They proved some of them to be in the village of Bunniary, under the said Khaga, which a Company of Sepoys were in consequence sent to recover. The Zemindars rose to defend the stolen goods by force of arms. On hearing this, I sent a battalion to their assistance, and they immediately, on receiving intelligence of its march, burnt all the property in sight of the first detatchment, a few excepted, which were taken by force from the house of the Zemindar called Munkullee; near 30,000 Rs. in goods have been stolen from the brigade, and all have been proved upon the Zemindars under Khaga Ain ul Dien. The prisoner, Munkulla, says, " we delivered over sundry thieves, toge-

Digitized by Google

" ther with the stolen goods, to Khaga Kerim Ally, Phousdar of that place, and brother of Khaga Ain ul Dein." It is most wonderful, that the said Khaga has written nothing to me, and has not shewn where they are. Since my first wish is on all occasions to act conformable to your pleasure, I have not punished the authors of these disturbances; of this, however, I am fully convinced, that it is not the brigade alone, but the property of the inhabitants of the whole country, will be ruined by the continuance of these disorders. I hope you will either direct Khaga Ain ul Dien to take care, or suffer me to punish the offenders. It is not only to the brigade, but over all the country, his Zemindars tyranize, and kill many poor people and travellers. It is necessary justice should be done. From these circumstances, it is plain the thieves of all the country find protection under Khaga Ain ul Dien, and act by his orders; if it were not so, he would endeavour to punish and extirpate the thieves.

Translation of his Excellency the Vizier's letter, in answer to the above.

I have received your letter. The Sepoys you detached to apprehend the robbers, as it was done without a reference to me, was improper; and I desire that you will in future obtain my previous sanction to all your proceedings, through the channel of the resident, Mr. Bristow. Such is my pleasure, and such the orders of the Governor General; in conformity to which, should Mahomed Beg (who has been appointed Sezawal of Firockabad, on the recall of Shehimad Syed Cawn) make application to you at any time for military aid, you will be pleased to apprize me of his requisition, and receive my orders thereupon. I further understand, Sir, that you have issued Dustucks for horses—from a conviction that the practice was productive of much confusion to my affairs, the Governor General has already strictly forbidden it, and an allowance in lieu of the privilege granted to the army. I therefore desire that you will not issue Dustucks in time to come; and that whenever you may have occasion for them, the same mode of previous application may be observed.

Copy of Mr. Bristow's letter to Colonel Sir John Cumming, accompanying his Excellency the Vizier's; dated Lucknow, 20th January 1783.

I am desired by the Vizier to transmit you No. 1, 2, and 3, translation of your letter to him, as also of those you have written to Khoga Ain ul Deen, the Aumil of Rohilcund, and to inform you that he considers the whole of the above correspondence with the Aumil, together with the Sepoys

Digitized by Google

Sepoys detached, and the Dustucks issued by you without referrence to him, as a direct breach of your instructions, which place you immediately under his orders; and expressly enjoin you, on every occasion, to obtain his previous written sanction to your proceedings through the channel of the resident. I have the honour to enclose the Vizier's answer to your address, as also a translation (No. 4) of the orders his Excellency has thought proper to issue to Khoga Ain ul Dien, and Myrsa Mahomed Beg, to prevent in future the robberies you complain of: At the same time I take the liberty to enclose a Persian copy of the form of address observed by the Honourable the Governor General and the resident, in all correspondence with the Vizier, from an apprehension that the style adopted in your letter might give offence to his Excellency, which I am persuaded is most foreign to your intentions.

Copy of a letter from Colonel Sir John Cumming to Mr. John Bristow, resident at the Vizier's Court; dated Futty Ghur, January 23d 1783.

I have had the honour to receive your letters of the 20th instant: I shall reply to that containing the intelligence about the motions of the Seiks, as soon as the letters can be translated. My own intelligence does not import that they have any intention of disturbing his Excellency's Government. I shall, however, pay every attention to the intelligence your letters contain; and the troops under my command shall be in readiness to march the moment it becomes necessary.

With regard to my letters to the Khoga, the simple meaning of the first was, that I had been ordered up here by the Governor General for the protection of the upper provinces of the Vizier's dominions, and that the districts under him, being a part of them, should there be occasion for assistance, it would be sent from this station. That I understand, by letters from some horse merchants, that they wished to bring their horses to Futty Ghur; and as I was in great want myself, as well as many of the officers here, should any good ones enter his country I should be obliged to him if he would forward them. As the person sent down by the merchants could not be persuaded to return without a passport from me, I gave him one—this had nothing to do with the duties; they had, previous to this, paid them to Natha Cawn, on account of Khoga Ain ul Dein. I had no concern with the duties; they would not have sold their horses one rupee cheaper, even if they had not paid them; but it appears they paid 507 rupees for 51

 horses,

Digitized by Google

horses, during the time I commanded at this station formerly. I always, in sending for horses, gave passports for them. I interfered not, nor did I even hear any objections made to my giving them, because they had no effect, and were not intended to have any on the duties paid to Government: and I can safely appeal to the last resident, to the Nabob's Ministers, to the Nabob himself, in short to all the officers of his government, whether I ever interferred in any respect with the officers of the Sircar, or if a single Sepoy was even sent out by me from this station, without application made by his Excellency.

The account the Khoga has given of my taking up the robbers, and of those people not being the persons who had committed the late robberies, is equally untrue. The short state of the matter is this, scarce a night has happened in which some daring theft has not been committed. I am every day surrounded with the native officers of the regiments, as well as the Sepoys, and even many representations from the European officers, of their having lost every thing they had; some of the gentlemen have not a coat or a sword to wear. I am considered by them as indifferent to their interests, because I have taken no effectual step sooner; indeed, the difficulty was to fix on the people guilty: I have been at great pains and some expence, and at last, on the fullest information, they proved to be the people of Khoga Ain ul Deen's districts. I sent over a Subadar with one Company, to take up the person in whose possession the stolen goods were seen; the Company went in the night with the greatest secrecy, surrounded the house, on which the people beat their Tom Toms as an alarm, and in an instant the Company was surrounded by between two or three thousand men. On seeing them gathering, the Subadar sent me word he was in danger of being cut off; on which I ordered a battalion to cross the river for his protection. Now, let us see what proofs there are against these honest people of the Khoga: first, the Subadars, the Jamadars, the Hircarrahs, and twenty of the Sepoys, offer to make oath, that on finding the house surrounded, they made a large fire, burnt a great quantity of Subadars, Jamadars, and European gentlemen's cloaths, together with a large packet or bundle of European letters and papers. The person now in custody, a near relation of the Jamadar of the village, was one of those who burnt the things, and bears evident marks on his shoulders, half of his quilt being burnt in doing it. In their hurry, however, some things were forgot, and luckily are now in the guard room; they consist of many things belonging to a Subadar of the 10th regiment. There are, amongst other things, two regimental coats.—*Are these proofs, or are they not?* The

man

Digitized by Google

man in custody acknowledges the robberies, and declares Khoja Ain ul Deen's brother the encourager and protector of the thieves. In consequence of this, I applied to the Nabob by letter, requesting he would either punish the guilty, or authorize me to do it. I have also applied to the minister to reprimand the Koja for his disrespectful letter to me.

I consider myself as fully authorized to apply to his Excellency on all such occasions as this, as also to his minister; nor do I conceive it at all necessary to do this through you. I am ordered to receive all requisitions for performing military service from his Excellency, and the Board direct they shall be conveyed through you; but they are to be under his seal, and in writing. Can you, on such grounds as this, conceive it ever was the intention of the Honourable Board to preclude me from corresponding with the Nabob. Is it to be supposed, that they would entrust me with a large body of troops for the protection of the frontiers, for the aid and assistance of the Nabob, and yet preclude me from addressing him but by your permission? for may having written to him, and not made my application to you, is the grounds of offence, and has induced you to make yourself a party in favour of a worthless and insolent man; but since you have volunteered in this business, I now call on you to aid me in bringing to punishment the person accused, the brother or relation of the Koja. It is not, however, in a court constituted at Lucknow, at least of the Nabob's officers, that I can hope for this. All those who have suffered the numerous thefts and robberies are making continual complaints, and calling on me for justice. If nothing more is to be done, will you obtain payment of the amount of their losses; while your predecessor was in office, on every application made to him for redress to the sufferers in cases of this kind, his repley was, that we must protect ourselves, and make use of our own force to punish these robbers and murderers; that it was not in the Nabob's power to do it; and that he did not think himself obliged to make good any losses of this kind. In consequence of this, every officer commanding took the same steps I have done, and by this means some check was put to them. On a personal application I made to his Excellency, he made the same reply, with this addition, that they had even robbed himself, and he could do nothing with them.

Let me ask you this simple question: Suppose, instead of the step I have taken, I had previously applied to the Nabob, and, in order to obtain the sanction of your approbation and assistance, had in the first place applied to you; will you venture to say that any of the thieves would have been apprehended, or any of the stolen goods recovered?

Digitized by Google

ed? I think I may pronounce you will not: But, had I previously applied to his excellency, will you even venture to say that it would have been a secret to Khoga Ain ul Deen, that there was such applications made for permission to seize the robbers?—I dare say you would again reply in the negative.

This is the first time I ever knew the Nabob complain of robbers being taken up. You have given him a new light, and have made speak a language very different to what he used to do, and, I may add, have altered the style of his letters, which have been ever 'till now civil and polite to every gentleman, much more to those of my rank, and had he been left to himself he would still have continued to write in the same manner; but I must be so far plain as to tell you, that I consider the letter as speaking your sentiments rather than his. I know how much the point has been laboured to make him and all the officers consider the officers commanding the troops, however high their rank, as the inferiors of and dependants on the residents. This is a matter too well known to be doubted by any who have ever been in this part of the country. With respect to myself, you made him send me an order, by which all officers, the moment they passed without the sentries of these cantonments, were entirely removed from under my command, and put directly under yours, to be employed by you on such military services as you should deem proper, without my being consulted, or having any controul over them. Is this consistent with the instructions of the Board, or with any respect of their instructions? Having engrossed to yourself the whole civil authority of the country, you are now stretching your hand over that of the military also, and taking advantage of that part of my instructions which say, that the Vizier's to me for military services shall pass through you. You have, it is evident, inculcated to him and his ministers, that I am absolutely under your orders. However much I felt this, and the letter I received from his Excellency, I put up with it in silence, rather than, by explaining the real state of the case, shew him how much you had misled him. In his last letter you make him say, that when I have occasion for any passport for horses, my application is to be made first to you: This is your diction—is it a style of treatment for me? Your office gives you great power and influence, but, as servants of the Company, my rank is superior to yours; and this alone might have induced you to treat me with some little delicacy.

In your own letter, you go a step further than his Excellency has gone: You roundly tax me with a *Breach* of my instructions; but it will appear clearest in your own hand: "I am desired by the Vizier to transmit you (No. 1, " 2, and

Digitized by Google

" 2, and 3) tranflations of your letters to him, as well as " thofe you have written to Khoga Ain Ul Dien Cawn, " the Aumil of Rohilcund, and to inform you that he " confiders the whole of the above correfpondence with the " Aumil, together with the Sepoys detached, and Duftucks " iffued by you without reference to him, as a direct Breach " of your inftructions, which place you immediately under " his orders; and exprefsly enjoin, on every occafion, to " obtain his previous written fanction to your proceedings " through the channel of the Refident." The laft two lines are widely mifapplied; but as it appears you have given him a copy of this part of my inftructions, I will forward to him a true tranflation of them, to prevent his mifunderftanding them in future.

But if you really underftand my inftructions in the light you have placed them, how inconfiftent was it, without the Vizier's orders, to defire me to march a detachment to Sandy, to releafe fome boats with private trade! Your lettter was a public one, addreffed in the manner all public letters are, and figned officially " Refident at the Vizier's court;" and when I informed you, that from what I knew of the people concerned, it was probable there would be refiftance the two fix-pounders and a regiment were to go; and it was neceffary I fhould have a requifition from the Vizier—Did you fend me one? No; you did not even anfwer my letter for feveral days, and till the time the bufinefs muft have been done, had the troops marched, and then came a fimple requeft, that they might not march; this would really have been a *Breach* of my inftructions—but I can by no means confider my apprehending a fet of robbers in this light, or that it was even intended the troops fhould quietly have their throats cut without refiftance; this is not merely a figure: Murders are as common in and around this camp as in the ftreets of Nàples; and to cut this part of the ftory fhort, I now tell you, that when any robbery or murder is committed, I will not fail, if in my power not only to apprehend the villains, but, if the proofs are clear on trial, hang them without the leaft hefitation. To fum up the whole, I muft beg leave to fay, that there is not an officer in the fervice more defirous than I am to conform to the orders of the board, but even to thofe of the Nabob, as far as his fhall be confiftent with theirs; and I am fatisfied they are convinced of this, and am equally certain the Nabob is of the fame opinion, and would fo exprefs himfelf, if left to himfelf; but, from the change of his ftyle, I muft confider the letters, though wrote by his Moonfhies, and bearing his feal, as dictated by you. I fhall on all occafions, when I fee it neceffary, addrefs his Excellency, his minifters, or any of the officers of his go-

vernment,

Digitized by Google

vernment, and conceive I have in every respect an equal right with you to do this, and that it is necessary I should do so. You have sent me translations of my letters to the Khogah; if that about the horses is a literal one, it certainly imports more than was meant, as I have said in the beginning of this. Captain Broome having been confined to his bed, it is possible the Moonshie may have gone beyond my intentions; but the offence lies in my writing without your permission.

True Translations, and Copies.

(Signed) J. NEAVE,
Assistant to the Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Copy of Letter from Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court to Colonel Sir John Cumming; dated Lucknow, 20th January 1783.

I take the liberty to enclose (No. 1, 2, 3, and 4.) copies of letters and intelligence relative to the Sikes, which have this instant been delivered to me; and I seize the earliest opportunity of forwarding them to you, that in case any parties of the enemy should have entered the Vizier's dominions, you may follow such measures as you shall deem expedient for the preservation of the peace of the country. I have communicated the circumstances to his Excellency, requesting to be honoured with his commands, which I shall in course transmit.

Khoga Ain ul Dien, the Aumil of Rohilcund, and Myrsa Mahomed Casseem, have above 170 cavalry and 6,000 infantry stationed with them.

Copy of Colonel Sir John Cumming's Letter to Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court, in answer to the above; dated Futty Ghur, January 23d 1783.

I have considered the intelligence contained in the Persian papers you were pleased to send me, and compared it with my own account; and, on the whole, am of opinion that the fears of the people about Anusshyr have magnified the number of the Seiks, and ascribed to them intentions which they have not: I shall, however, put every thing in a condition to march on the shortest notice.—The motions of these people are rapid. With regard to the infantry of the Aumils, I consider them as nothing, and would not wish to see one of them in a camp where I commanded. The cavalry, if good for any thing, would be useful, but am afraid are not such as would look those of the Seiks in the face.

Translation

Digitized by Google

Translation of a Letter from Colonel Sir John Cumming to his Excellency the Vizier.

Mr. Bristow having written to me, informing me that the Seiks were ravaging the country round Anoopsheer, and that they seem disposed to cross the Ganges, and having also transmitted me sundry news-papers on the same subject; and although, in case they should cross, they would find it difficult to maintain themselves in Ghetue, yet as they would undoubtedly spoil and destroy the country, and cause a great loss to the collections, if you approve it, I will march to Anoopsheer with the troops under my command.—Favour me with your commands on this subject.

A true translation, and copy.

(Signed) J. NEAVE,
Assistant to the Resident at the Vizier's court.

Translation of a letter from Colonel Sir John Cumming to Hyder Beg Cawn.

It is evident, from the unhealthiness of Patna, many horses belonging to gentlemen died; when they came into this country, every gentleman looked out for them, and from the horse merchants coming from Jorgnegar, Darnagur, and other places of their resort. Since we soldiers have occasion for horses, every gentleman will want to buy some. I have occasion for horses to do my business, and my good ones are all dead, I therefore sent Hircarrahs to bring them; I afterwards dispatched a guard of Sepoys to defend the merchants, lest they should be plundered by the banditti, particularly in the Pergunnahs under Khoga Ain Ul Dien, which are literally a nest of thieves, whose sole employment is plunder.

The above merchants arrived at Jellalabad, by the way of Beseilly; Natha Cawn Cutwal, renter under Khoga Ain Ul Dien, took 560 rupees for all the Chouckies he rented, and gave them a passport to the Phousdar of Jellalabad, who acting oppressively, would not let them pass, although the Hircarrahs with them had Purwannahs. The conduct of the Phousdar is more extraordinary, as the hapless merchants paid the duties in presence of Khoga Ain Ul Dien; and he at last sent them, in consequence of a letter from Khoga Ain Ul Dien, to whom I had written on the sub-subject, detaining however a brother of the horse merchants. I am sensible the duties are the property of the Company, I am myself anxious they should be collected. I never issued orders remitting the duties—it is not my custom; but the said Khoga wrote a most improper answer to my letter, a copy of which I enclose for your information.

The

The Governor never wrote me in ſuch terms, does it then become the ſaid Khoga? You will ſhortly ſee him, and it is neceſſary you ſhould talk to him on the ſubject, and let me know his anſwer, otherwiſe I ſhall tranſmit his letter to the Governor and Council. The Nabob, nor even the King himſelf, could not addreſs me in a ſtyle ſo unwarrantable. This conduct in a perſon at Khoga Ain Ul Dien's time of life is the more unaccountable, I really do not underſtand him;—this matter will not end here.

Copy of a Letter from Khogah Ain Ul Deen to Colonel Sir John Cumming, incloſed in his Letter to Hyder Beg Cawn.

I was exceedingly ſurprized on receipt of your Duſtuck with the Sepoys, to prevent obſtacles or impediments happening to the horſes of Amanul Cawn and Noor Chan, merchants, directed to Munoon Cawn, Phouſdar of Jellalabad: the above people are merchants, they brought goods for ſale to Daranagur, and paid the duties. It is clear that this country belongs to the Vizier, and the aſſignments of the Engliſh Company. I, according to your letter before, ſent my Hircarrahs to Munoon Cawn, ordering him to levy the accuſtomed duties, and afterwards to diſpatch them to you, accompanied by five Peons and my Hircarrah. You, Sir, did not reflect that the remiſſion of the duties would be a loſs to the Company's Jaydaad. It is neceſſary you ſhould be kind enough to remand your Duſtuck, and my Hircarrahs will bring the horſes to you, and in future I beg you will not iſſue Duſtucks, becauſe the Company's collections will ſuffer by it, and it may affect our reputation.

True tranſlations.

(Signed) J. NEAVE,
Aſſiſtant to the Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

Copy of a Letter from the Honourable Governor General and Council to Mr. John Briſtow, Reſident at the Vizier's Court; dated Fort William, 24th October 1782.

We deſire that you will make it an immediate object of your enquiry, to aſcertain whether the troops which have been detached from the ſtations of Cawnpore and Chunar, at the requiſition of the late Reſident, or his deputy, for internal defence or other ſervice in the Vizier's dominions, are abſolutely and indiſpenſably neceſſary for thoſe purpoſes; and as ſoon as it ſhall appear to you that theſe detachments, or any part of them, may be removed without very material prejudice to the Vizier's affairs, you will ſend a notification

cation thereof in writing severally to each of the officers commanding them, that their services are no longer required, a correspondent having been sent by us to the Commanding Officers at Cawnpore and Chunar, to command the instant return of every detachment within 24 hours after the receipt of such notification from you.

If at any time hereafter the Vizier shall require any extraordinary aid for the internal defence of his dominions, you will address the commanding officer of the nearest station within the province of Bahar, requiring such assistance to be sent immediately; but if the occasion shall be so sudden and urgent as not to admit of the delay of such a distant application, you will in that case make the requisition to the officer commanding at Chunar; or finally (but not without the most pressing, most absolute, and most evident necessity) to the commanding officer at Cawnpore, or the frontier station, wherever it may be, of the Vizier's dominions; on every such occasion you will take the precaution to receive a requisition in writing from Vizier for such aid, and transmit instant advice of it to us, not waiting for the detail of the reasons which have induced the Vizier to require the extraordinary aid, or you to comply with his requisition; but these, to prevent delay, may be communicated to us afterwards, as soon as your leisure will permit.

Extract of a Letter from the Honourable Governor General and Council to Colonel Sir John Cumming; dated Fort William, 17th September 1782.

In this service it is our intention that you shall be subject to the orders of the Vizier, which will be signified to you through the channel of the Resident at his Court, for the performance of any military operations which he may require from you within the boundaries of his dominions, either for the protection of the country, or for quelling any internal commotions to which the station of your troops may be most contiguous or convenient; but on all occasions you will have the precaution to receive from him the requisition in writing, specifying the service to be performed, if there be sufficient time for that purpose without endangering the safety or peace of the country; and in the execution of such service you will be the judge of what force it may be necessary to employ, and will appoint and order it accordingly, but we earnestly and specially recommend it to you not to make any detachments from your troops which cannot be instantly recalled, and with which a junction might a any time be precarious or difficult; but in the performance

ance of any confiderable or diftant operations, you will march with your whole force to effect them.

True copies.

(Signed) J. NEAVE,

Affiftant to the Refident at the Vizier's court.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to Colonel Sir John Cummings.

Sir,

Mr. Briftow, our Refident at Lucknow, has thought it neceffary to lay before us copies of fome letter, which have paffed between you and Coja Ayn' Odeen, the Aumil of Rohilcund; of letters which you have wrote in confequence to the Vizier, and to his Minifter Hyder Beg Cawn; of the anfwer to the former, and of thofe which paffed on this occafion between you and the Refident.

Upon an impartial review of thefe papers, we cannot but be of opinion that your conduct has been unguarded. —Your letters to the Vizier and to Hyder Beg Cawn, but particularly the latter, was very improper.

By the tenor of your inftructions from us, the nature of all military fervices, and the force requifite, are left to your judgment, but you are placed under the fole and exclufive direction of the Vizier, to be fignified to you through the Refident; he is the Agent or Minifter of this government, and the only proper channel for the tranfaction of bufinefs on behalf of the Company or their dependants with the Vizier; it was therefore of courfe to be underftood, that all applications from you to the Vizier ought to have been made through the Refident.

To prevent any mifunderftanding or miftakes in future, we think it neceffary to direct that if you have any application or communications to make to the Vizier, or any application to any of the officers of his court, you tranfmit the fame to the Refident, that he may reprefent them to the Vizier, and obtain his orders, if any fhall be neceffary thereupon; as we wifh to eftablifh this as a general rule of the fervice, we have accordingly publifhed it in orders to the army. We difapprove of the Duftuck which you granted to the horfe merchants addreffed to Munnoon Cawn, Foufdar of Jellalabod.

To prevent any complaint of this kind in future, and to obviate the pleas which would confequently be made for a failure in the collection, we think it neceffary to forbid you from fending orders to, or correfponding with any of the Vizier's officers, excepting thofe (if any) who fhall be directed by him to obey you, or co-operate with you. We approve of the inftant meafures which you took for appre-

hending

Digitized by Google

hending the robbers of your camp; but it was improper to keep any who were taken in confinement, or to insist on the delivery of others, assuming the power of justice to yourself.

They ought, as they were not seized in your camp, to have been delivered up immediately to the Nabob's officers, or to his order, for trial and punishment, with the evidence you had produced for convicting them. We are.

Extract of Bengal General Consultations, the 3d March 1783.

Read the following letters from Colonel Sir John Cumming:

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

The progress of the detachment having been retarded, by waiting for the store boats, I availed myself of the opportunity to see the Resident at Lucknow, in order to make myself acquainted, as much as possible, with the service the Vizier might wish to have performed.

As no particular place has been pointed out in the instructions I had the honour to receive from your board, I was induced, at the Resident's request, to offer my sentiments on the most eligible place to make a field station; and now beg leave to lay before you a copy of what I wrote him on the subject.

At the same time my opinion was asked with respect to a requisition made by Elmaus Ali Khan, to take a fort in the Dooab called Sasny, it was suggested, after taking it, to put in a garrison of the honourable Company's Sepoys. For my own part, though I think it perfectly right to attack the fort, if the possessor persevere in disobedience to government, yet I see no advantage to be derived from garrisoning it with our own troops; it would excite distrust and suspicion, without being the least check or controul, as it commands no pass or gaut. I think it would be more adviseable to put it into the hands of the Vizier, or his representative, particularly as it would deprive us of a battalion of Sepoys, which might perhaps be better employed. Elmaus does not wish to have this business carried into execution till after two months are elapsed.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, (Signed) JOHN CUMMING, Col.
the 12th November 1782.

To John Bristow, Esquire, Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Sir,

Agreeably to your request, I take the liberty of offering my sentiments on the choice of a station for the troops under-

Digitized by Google

under my command; on a full consideration of all circumstances, I am of opinion that Ram Gaut, or some place in that vicinity, is the most eligible; among the various on which my opinion is founded, are those which follow: The second brigade being stationed at Khanpor, will effectually preserve peace and tranquillity, for at least 50 Coss on every side. The extent of the Vizier's dominions to the North West is about three hundred miles from Khanpore; consequently, was the detachment stationed at Furruckabad, there would frontier of two hundred miles left unguarded, and the whole country of Rohel Cund exposed to the incursions of Secks or Mharattas. If Ram Gaut was made the station, all the fordable parts of the river would be guarded, and the whole detachment would be able to reach the North West boundary of the Nabob's dominions in five or six days; it's intermediate situation, between Feizulla Khan's country and Delhi, would prevent him from acting in concert with any of the powers beyond the Jumna, and render a junction of their forces impossible. The collections in Rohel Cund would be more easily made, and become less precarious; and whenever an Aumil might require the assistance of a regiment, it would be less dangerous to detach it, because it would never be more than five or six days march from the station.

Should it be the intention of government to take any part in the transactions at Delhi, or to enter into any negociation with the King or his ministers, the vicinity of an army to that city would give a vast weight to any proposal or recommendation: it would render the Vizier's government more respectable, and extend his influence.

It was formerly found necessary to station two regiments at Darrennugger; that necessity can never exist again if Ram Gaut be made a station, because, as has been already observed, the boundary of the Vizier's dominions would be within six marches. This may perhaps prove a considerable saving of expence.

Many other reasons might be urged in support of the opinion I have given; but as those already offered appear to me fully sufficient, I shall enter no farther at present into the subject.

As some of the Zemindars are at this time refractory, it is highly probable we shall find it necessary to reduce some of their forts. I am therefore very desirous of having two eighteen pounders, and two 5½ inch howitzers, from the Nabob. If this request can be complied with, I wish to have them immediately, as delay at the time they are wanted may prove detrimental to the service.

The difficulty of apprehending those who fly from the justice of the Vizier's government, makes me very anxious

Digitized by Google

to have a body of Kandahar horſe added to my detachment—the number from three to five hundred, as may be moſt agreeable to the Vizier.

Should the board concur with me in opinion reſpecting the ſtation at Ram Gaut, I thing it would be expedient to leave one regiment at Ferruckabad, which would ſuffice to preſerve the peace of that diſtrict. The troops above would have a vaſt influence over all the country below them; add to which, junction might be made, if neceſſary in four days.

Lucknow, I have the honour, &c.
the 12th Nov. 1782. (Signed) JOHN CUMMING, Col.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General, &c. &c. &c. Supreme Council.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I take the liberty of tranſmitting to your Honourable Board the copy of a letter I this day wrote to the Reſident at the Vizier's court, in reply to one received from him this morning, encloſing ſome intelligence reſpecting the motions of the Secks: It appears that there are many thouſands of them embodied, and that they have laid waſte the country round Anopſhire, and made ſome attempts to croſs the Ganges, and enter the Rohel Cund country; I hope the opinion I have given on this occaſion will meet the approbation of your Honourable Board.

Futty Ghur, I have the honour to be, &c.
27th January 1783. (Signed) JOHN CUMMING, Col.

Copy of a letter from Colonel Sir John Cumming to Mr. Briſtow, Reſident at the Vizier's Court, dated the 27th January 1783.

Sir,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 25th inſtant encloſing ſome Perſian Papers of intelligence: upon a full conſideration of their contents, together with ſome information I have received myſelf, I am of opinion it would be hazardous to make any detachments from the force under my command. I have ſome grounds for apprehending that Zabli Khan and the Secks have adviſed Fazulla Khan to reject the propoſals now made to him by the Vizier, with promiſes of their aſſiſtance, ſhould a rupture enſue; it is not improbable that a combination between theſe powers may be now forming, or already formed. It may be ſaid that ſuch a meaſure could not eſcape the knowledge of Major Palmer, who is on the ſpot; but for my own part I

think otherwiſe—Fazulla Khan may eaſily prevent any intelligence from reaching Major Palmer while he reſides at Rampoſe.

For the above reaſons I am of opinion that the beſt and ſafeſt meaſure we can adopt is Four regiments of Sepoys and the company of artillery to take the field immediately. Major Grant, with the 8 companies of his regiment, ſhould be recalled, and left behind as a guard to the magazine, officers' baggage, &c. &c.

I think it would be adviſeable for the troops to march on this ſide of the river, directly to Anopſhire; the Seicks would then be obliged to abandon their ſcheme of croſſing the Ganges, and would probably diſperſe, or return to their houſes. The detachment in two months might return to its preſent ſtation, as the grain is now on the ground, and muſt ſuffer very much by the march of troops; the preſervation of the corps on the Vizier's diſtricts is an additional reaſon for the detachment's marching on this ſide of the river.

I have hitherto iſſued no order for the troops to prepare for march, becauſe ſuch notice is always productive of additional expence to the company, but I have taken ſuch ſteps as will enable us to march on the ſhorteſt notice; I ſhall do nothing farther till I am informed of the Vizier's pleaſure.

Should the Vizier approve of the propoſals I have made, it would be expedient that the Aumils of Rohil Cund ſhould be directed to communicate to me all the intelligence in their power, and to aſſiſt in furniſhing the camp with ſupplies of grain, &c. &c.

In a former letter you mentioned that Amuddeen Khan had ſeventeen hundred horſe; it would be of great advantage if thoſe, or part of them, were ordered to join the detachment.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. CUMMING, Col.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General, &c. &c. &c. Supreme Council.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

The Reſident at the Vizier's Court having tranſmitted to your Honourable Board copies of ſeveral papers of correſpondence, and requeſted your deciſion thereon, lays me under the neceſſity of troubling you with ſomething in vindication of my own conduct.

The ſum of Mr. Briſtow's repreſentation is, that I have taken the liberty to addreſs his Excellency the Vizier and the officers of his government, without paſſing my letters through him; that I granted Duſtucks; and that I ſent out a party

a party of Sepoys to apprehend some robbers who had been guilty of repeated thefts and murders within the limits of camp.

As Mr. Bristow has sent to your Honourable Board a copy of my letter to him, under date the 23d ulto. it will be unnecessary to say much on the subject of my letters to Khojah Amuddeen Khan. Knowing that the Seiks were assembled in large bodies, and plundering the upper part of the Dooâl, I considered that Rohil Cund was by the rapidity of their motions, exposed to the danger of being plundered also; I therefore wrote Rajah Amuddeen the letter Mr. Bristow has transmitted to your Board. It was not my intention, however, to march to his assistance without an express order from the Vizier, unless I had actually received intelligence of the Seiks having crossed the Ganges: In that event, to guard against the ill consequence of delay in waiting for instructions from Lucknow, I should have thought myself justified by my instructions from your Board had I marched immediately.

With respect to my requesting Khojah Amuddeen to forward any good horses that came into the country for sale, I cannot yet discover any thing in it that could be taken amiss. The merchants, after paying the customary duties, are at liberty to carry their goods to any market they please, Those duties were paid at Darranagger, consequently the Phousdar at Jellalabad had no right to detain the horses. To this purpose I wrote him; he complained to Khojah Amuddeen, who wrote me a letter, which I thought very disrespectful. I represented the affair to the the Vizier and his minister Hyder Beg Khan;—I did not conceive it necessary to apply through Mr. Bristow in a matter that concerned myself only; and I believe there never was an officer in command yet, who has not addressed the Vizier, and the officers of his government, without passing his letters through the Resident. Mr. Bristow has forwarded to your honourable Board the copy, or translation, of a letter I wrote his Excellency, recommending the march of the whole detachment towards Anopshire, to prevent the Seicks from committing depredations in Rohilcund. He expresses his surprize and alarm at my writing his Excellency without informing him of my having done so.

I will not say that Mr. Bristow has wilfully misrepresented the fact, but I affirm that after my letter to him of the 23d ultimo, I wrote him two others, informing him of my reasons for changing my opinion with respect to the Sieks, one was of the 26th ultimo, of which I enclose a copy; the other was under date the 27th, a copy whereof has been already transmitted to your Board. It is possible the Nabob's Dauck might reach Lucknow sooner than Mr

Digitized by Google

Briſtow's (for both have their ſeparate Daucks) but as no letter intruſted to either has been known to miſcarry, I cannot avoid thinking Mr. Briſtow muſt have received one or both of thoſe letters before he addreſſed your Board; at any rate I muſt think him very precipitate.

The Reſident complains that I ſpeak of the Vizier and himſelf without ceremony. It is true I ſometimes uſe the word *Vizier*, frequently *his Excellency*, now and then *Nabob*. Thoſe terms I take to be ſynonymous, and I have ſeen them uſed in the ſame ſenſe in all the public letters I have ever read. With regard to the ceremony due to the Reſident, I am at a loſs what honour or what title to give him; perhaps he expects that all the titles engraved on his ſeal ſhould precede the mention of his name, in the ſame manner as is practiſed by the natives in their Arzees and petitions: I have hitherto ſeen nothing of this kind introduced among gentlemen of higher rank than Mr. Briſtow; and I conceive, were I to adopt it, its novelty and ſingularity would render it truly ridiculous.

Another ground of complaint is my having ſent a party of Sepoys to apprehend certain perſons who had committed many thefts and murders in camp; I have given a full account of that tranſaction, and my motives, in a letter to Mr. Briſtow of the 23d ultimo. As your Board has a copy of that letter, I will not enter into a repetition, but only add that it has been the conſtant practice of all the officers who ever commanded in theſe provinces, to execute ſummary juſtice on ſuch offenders; were ſuch meaſures not taken, it would not be poſſible for the camp to exiſt. To apply to the Viziers for leave, or an order to apprehend thieves, would be to publiſh the intention and to defeat the end it was intended to anſwer. I requeſt your honourable Board to aſk the opinions of General Stibbert and Colonel Muir on this ſubject; both thoſe officers have commanded here, and are now at the Reſidency: by their anſwers let my conduct ſtand approved or diſapproved. I wiſh alſo that your honourable Board would call on the late Reſident for his opinion, whether it would be poſſible to bring offenders to juſtice, or to preſerve the camp from being infeſted with thieves and cut-throats, if no perſon could be apprehended without going through all the forms of a public application to the Vizier. Mr. Briſtow obſerves, that my account of this tranſaction is ſcarcely intelligible: I will truſt to the candour of your Board, and have no doubt of your perfectly underſtanding it without any further explanation.

Many letters have paſſed between Mr. Briſtow and me relative to his claim of inſtructing officers detached on ſervice. It would take up too much of your time to peruſe the

Digitized by Google

the whole, I shall therefore trouble you with a few extracts only of Mr. Bristow's letter on that subject. He claims the right of instructing whatever officer may be detached, not only in civil and revenue matters, but on every other service in which he may be employed. Should an officer be sent against the Seiks, he is to receive his orders through the Resident.

I assure you, gentlemen, my objection to this claim is founded not on a vain desire to support my own consequence, but on the fullest conviction that I cannot admit it consistently with the instructions I had the honour to receive from your Board now, without endangering the safety of the country; you have cautioned me against detaching troops which cannot be instantly recalled, or with which a junction might at any time be difficult or precarious. If officers detached become immediately subject to the authority of the Resident, it is not in my power to comply with your injunctions in this instance; the detachments may be ordered on services, and removed to great distances, without my having the least information: Were a detachment unprovided with proper artillery and amunition, were it unequal to the service expected from it, or were it even cut off by a superior force, the responsibility must fall on Mr. Bristow; it is not in my power to guard against the contingencies of a service I am permitted to know nothing of; unapprized of the service, and the place where it is to be executed, how can I judge whether it be safe to detach or not? if the distance do not exceed 10 or 20 Coss, it might be done without risk, but far otherwise if the distance be 40 or 50 Coss, in the present situation of affairs.

Again, if the Resident be permitted to call for as many detachments as he thinks proper, to instruct the officers commanding, and to employ them how and where he pleases, what dependence can I place on being able to collect a force to repel any sudden invasion, or to crush an unexpected insurrection.

The line which I think the Resident and myself ought to observe, and which I beg leave to submit to the consideration of your Board, is this; when the Vizier requires military assistance, he or the Resident should inform me of the particulars. It is my duty to comply with the requisition, if it can be done with safety, otherwise to represent my reason for not complying: If, after the service be executed, more should be required of the same detachment, the requisition should be first made to me, and the officer on command would receive my orders accordingly; but if the orders for new or extra service be sent immediately from the Resident to the officer, it becomes liable to all those dangers I have already represented. The impropriety of entrusting the

Digitized by Google

the direction of military operations to a person totally unacquainted with the nature of them, is so obvious, that I wonder Mr. Bristow should so strenuously insist on it, particularly after the many letters I have wrote him, pointing out the dangerous consequences which must attend it.

It must be evident to your Board, that the whole drift of Mr. Bristow's representation is to prevent any person, whatever be his rank, from communicating any thing to the Vizier without his permission. This he considers so very important as to demand the instant decision of your honourable Board.

I take no notice of the acrimony of his style, nor of the ungenteel criticisms passed on my letters: I do not arrogate to myself the merit of a fine writer; at the same time I do not think Mr. Bristow's performance, laboured as it is, totally free from defects.

I cannot close this letter, long as it is already, without observing to your Board how ready Mr. Bristow is on every occasion to make unprovoked and hostile attacks; I therefore enclose you the copy of a letter I received from him very lately: he endeavours to throw the blame of actions done by the Vizier's Cutwal on me, though he knows that the man is of the Vizier's appointment, and subject to his orders only; he knows also that the duties, whether justly or unjustly exacted, are carried to the public account; he insinuates too, that some person has farmed the Bazar at 2,000 rupees per month. The absurdity or impossibility of such a fact is too palpable to require a refutation. Whilst the Vizier's Cutwal superintends the Bazar, and collects the duties, how is it possible for any other to rent it?

I have the honour to be, &c.

Futty Ghur, (Signed) JOHN CUMMING,
1st February 1783. Colonel.

Copy of instructions to Captain Hawhshaw, or officer commanding the Detachment.

Sir,

You will be pleased to march with the detachment under your command to Chebramow, where you will be met by the Sezawil of Fimuchabad; you will render him every assistance in your power towards collecting the arrears due from the several Zemindars; you will be cautious not to detach small parties, and thereby expose them to the danger of being cut off; and should any service be required of you which you think the detachment could not execute without great difficulty, you will defer executing it till you have made me acquainted therewith. You are by no means to

hold

hold correſpondence with the Zemindars, nor to interfere between them and the Sezawil.

13 December 1782. (Signed) J. CUMMING, Colonel.

Extracts from ſome of the Reſident's Letters.

Sir,

I have received your favour of the 23d inſtant, and now encloſe you a letter from the Vizier, repeating his Excellency's orders conveyed to you in an addreſs under date the 21ſt inſtant.

That the officer of the detachment with Mahomed Said Khan, and any other who may be hereafter detached, ſhould receive inſtructions only from the Reſident in civil and revenue matters, and on every other ſervice in which he may be employed, I beg leave to repeat my concurrence with his Excellency's orders.

For your information, I trouble you with a copy of my inſtructions to Major Lewis Grant, or officer commanding the detachment.

26 Dec. 1782. (Signed) JOHN BRISTOW, Reſident, &c. &c.

To Colonel Sir John Cumming, &c.

Sir,

I have received your favour of the 20th inſtant, and now encloſe you the Vizier's inſtructions, directing you to grant your aſſiſtance to Mahomed Khazym, and Khoja Amudeen Chan. They are inſtructed not on any account to make application to you on trifling occaſions, and to convey the earlieſt intelligence of the particulars to his Excellency.

The officer ſent upon detachment is to receive his inſtructions through the Reſident.

23d January 1783.

To Colonel Sir John Cumming, commanding a Detachment on the Frontier Station.

Sir,

I encloſe a letter from the Vizier, diſapproving your iſſuing Duſtucks, and informing you, if you chuſe to make an appeal to the Governor General upon the diſreſpectful language which you charge Khoja Ayen ul Dine of uſing towards you, that you are at liberty to do it. His Excellency does not think the contents of Khoja Ayen ul Dine's letter to you improper; if he ſhould have demanded more than the juſt duties upon horſes, reparation will be made to the perſon who may have been injured. Hodjee Mahomed, a merchant at Ferrockabad, has repreſented that the

Digitized by Google

the oppressions of the camp have been renewed, and his goods stopped. His Excellency request to know if any person under your authority has committed this outrage; and upon proof of the fact, directs the offender may be punished. His Excellency also directs you will enquire into the truth of the report relative to a person having used your name, in farming the Bazar of your camp for two thousand rupees a month. Your representations to Hyder Beg Cawn are disapproved, and you are commanded to correspond with the Vizer upon all affairs relative to his Excellency's government, making the Resident the channel of communication.

Lucknow, 24th Jan. 1783. I have the honour to be &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

To John Bristow, Esquire, Resident, &c.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 11th, 23d, and 24th instant. I shall on this, as on every other occasion, pay the utmost attention to the Vizier's requisition; should either of the Aumils in Rohil Chund apply to me for assistance, I shall give it them to the utmost of my power. In a former letter I gave it as my opinion, that nothing serious was intended by the Sieks against the Vizier's government; since that I have received some information, which has in some degree changed my sentiments. I shall be more explicit when I have investigated the truth, or am confirmed in my opinion. In the mean time I shall take care to have the troops in readiness against any emergency: should it be required to detach a force to any considerable distance, I should be very averse to comply therewith, but would rather march with the whole, except one regiment to guard the cantonments, &c.

I must here beg leave to inform you, that it is inconsistent with the nature of military service for officers detached to receive their instructions from the Resident; it must occur to you, on a moment's reflection, that such a measure would be liable to the most pernicious consequences. How could I proportion the strength of the detachment, or the quantity of stores, to a service I know nothing of? or what dependance can I place on being joined by detached regiments or battalion, in case of emergency, when I am left ignorant both as to the service they are employed on, and the distance they are removed to? though I object thus strongly to putting officers detached entirely and unconditionally under the authority, I assure you I do not mean to interfere in the smallest degree with the business of the country;

Digitized by Google

country; all I wish you to understand is, that I cannot permit any part of the troops under my command to be employed on services, or detached from one place to another, without my approbation or knowledge.

In compliance with the Vizier's instruction, communicated to me in your letter of the 11th instant, I have wrote Major Grant to lend every assistance in his power, to the newly-appointed Sezawil.

26th January 1783.

Agreed, that the following reply be written to Colonel Sir John Cumming.

Sir,

We have to acknowledge the receipt of letters from you under the following dates, 12th November, 13th December, 20th, 27th January, and 1st February.

We approve of the opinion which you express in the first of these, not to garrison Sassny with the Company's troops, in case it should be taken by them; and we here lay it down as a general rule for your guidance, not to put any of the Company's troops under your command into garrison, nor to have any fixed station, but to be ready at all times to march to any place where the service may require it.

Your remarks on the proceeding of the General Court Martial, enclosed in your letter of the 20th January, entirely coincide with our own knowledge and opinion; but we do not deem it necessary to publish any thing upon this subject in general orders of the army.

We have written to Mr. Bristow, in consequence of your letter of the 27th January, desiring that in all instances which require the movement of your detachment for the defence or protection of the country, he will recommend to the Vizier's instant decision in issuing clear and precise orders to you for that purpose, without waiting the delay of a reference to us for our advice, or leaving you at an uncertainty with respect to his intentions, when action on your part may be unavoidable.

Your letter of the 1st February, although it throws no new light upon the subject of which it treats, and on which we have already passed a decision, but rather confirms the propriety of the decision; suggests to us the necessity of a further order, which we shall likewise notify to Mr. Bristow. All orders for detachment will of course be sent to you, in the form already prescribed of requisitions from the Vizier; but when the detachments have been actually made, and any instant occasion shall require that fresh orders be sent to the officers commanding them, and they shall chance to be at such a distance from you or the officer commanding the whole, as would defeat the purpose of the orders

Digitized by Google

orders if issued through you, such orders may be immediately sent, as we have before prescribed, in the form of requisitions from the Vizier, to the officers commanding such detachments, and must be obeyed; they are at the same time to be notified to you, but in every other case the orders must pass through you. In like manner, when a quick communication of intelligence from the officers on detachment of the Vizier shall be necessary, and delays would occur from transmitting their letters through the commanding officers, they shall correspond immediately with the resident, transmitting copies of their letters to the commanding officers, but only in such instances.

We can hardly suppose that the Resident would be guilty of such irregularity, as to convey any orders from the Nabob relating to military detail; nevertheless, to prevent any future misunderstanding on this subject, we think it necessary to explain our intentions to be, that the Vizier shall prescribe the service to be performed; but that it must rest solely with the commanding officer to determine the force and means requisite for the execution of it.

Fort William, We are, &c.
3d March 1783. (Signed) Gov. Gen. and Council.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to Mr. Bristow.

Sir,

A letter which we received from Colonel Sir John Cumming suggests to us the necessity of establishing the following rule, which we hereby direct you to observe, in order to prevent any future misunderstanding between you concerning the authority of either to correspond with, or transmit orders to the commanding officers of detachments from his corps, and this we have also notified to Colonel Sir John Cumming.

All orders for detachments will of course be sent to Colonel Sir John Cumming, or the commanding officer of his corps, in the form already prescribed, of requisitions from the Vizier; but when the detachments have been actually made, and any instant occasion shall require that fresh orders be sent to the officers commanding them, and they shall chance to be at such a distance from Colonel Sir John Cumming, or the officer commanding the whole, as would defeat the purpose of the orders, if issued through him, such orders may be immediately sent as we have before prescribed in the form of requisitions from the Vizier, to the officers commanding such detachments, and must be obeyed; they are at the same time to be notified to Colonel Sir John Cumming, but in every other case the orders must pass through him. In like manner, when a quick communication

Digitized by Google

nication of intelligence from the officers on detachment to the Vizier ſhall be neceſſary, and delays would occur from tranſmitting their letters through the commanding officer, they ſhall correſpond immediately with you, tranſmitting copies of their letters to the commanding officer, but only in ſuch inſtances.

In a word, we think it neceſſary to explain our intentions to be, that the Vizier ſhall preſcribe the ſervice to be performed, but that it muſt reſt ſolely with the commanding officer to determine the force and means requiſite for the execution of it.

Fort William, We are, &c.
4th March 1783. (Signed) Gov. Gen. and Council.

Extract of Bengal Secret Conſultations, 3d March 1783.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General, &c. Members of the Supreme Council, Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I have received your letter of the 22d ultimo, and in obedience to your commands adviſed the Nabob Vizier to concert and form a new and permanent agreement with the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn, which may obviate all future ſigns of jealouſy or diſtruſt.

The mode his Excellency has thought the moſt eligible to effect theſe purpoſes is, by the deputation of a gentleman, who ſhall be authorized to ſettle all diſputed points. I took the liberty to recommend that Major William Palmer ſhould undertake this ſervice, his integrity and abilities, and the confidence with which the honourable the Governor General is known to honour him, will give weight and conquence to his negociations, and I hope be productive of good effects. I have requeſted an eſcort of two Companies of Sepoys from Colonel Sir John Cumming, to attend Major Palmer.

I have communicated to Almaſs Ally Cawn the permiſſion you have granted, of the detaching a force to aſſiſt him in the reduction of the Fort of Saſſny. He is at preſent employed in Jugduſpore, and informs me, when he may have ſettled that diſtrict he will make application for the troops, and having previouſly obtained the Vizier's approbation, proceed againſt the Fort.

I have the honour to be, with, &c.
Lucknow, (Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
19th Dec. 1782. Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

Read

Digitized by Google

Read the following from Mr. Briſtow:

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General, &c. Members of the Supreme Council, Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Under date the 19th inſtant I took the liberty to inform you of the Vizier's intentions of appointing Major William Palmer on a deputation to the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn. I now have the honour to encloſe (No. 1) the inſtructions I gave that gentleman in obedience to his Excellency's commands.

I have the pleaſure to forward two ſtatements (No. 2 and 3) of the revenues of Rampore; the one furniſhed by the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn, amounting annually to 15,85,576 rupees, and the other by my agents, amounting to 26,05,000 rupees, making a difference of rupees 10,19,424 per annum. I was informed the improvements in the Jaghires exceeded thirty lacks, but as I have tranſmitted the accounts to Major Palmer, he will be able to aſcertain the truth; the latter ſtatement I received ſince that gentleman left Lucknow on the 27th inſtant. I beg leave to ſolicit your orders on the ſum you think I ought to adviſe the Vizier to claim of the Nabob Fyzoola Cawn, in lieu of the military aid which he is obliged to furniſh, agreeable to the ſtipulations in the laſt treaty. I likewiſe beg to be informed if you approve the demand of money inſtead of troops. The inſtructions to Major Palmer do not authorize him to conclude any agreement before he ſhall tranſmit information of the actual ſtate of affairs. This has been purpoſely done, to afford me an opportunity of receiving your final orders, and recommending them for the Vizier's approbation.

Moſt of the encloſures in my letter to Major Palmer are the copies of the treaties between the Vizier and the Nabob Fyzoola Cawn, and extracts from your letters, together with the repreſentations made by my predeceſſors and me: thoſe papers are already amongſt your records. The letters which have paſſed between the Nabob Fyzoola Cawn and his Vakeel, Allef Cawn, relate to my having, previous to the receiving your orders of the 22d ultimo, endeavoured to ſound the diſpoſitions of the Nabob Fyzoola Cawn; of my intentions regarding this matter, I addreſſed the honourable Governor General, under date the 28th ultimo: Allef Cawn wrote to his maſter on the ſubject, and in anſwer he was directed not to agree to the granting any pecuniary aid; the reaſon aſſigned was, that by laſt treaty he was relieved from any claim on the part of the Vizier, except the furniſhing troops. This, even after the fray which happened at Daranagur, he wiſhed to evade, if required to ſerve at any diſtance from his own country; at the ſame time he was very

very willing to suffer the usual detachment to remain at Daranagur, or at a station near Rampore. I impute the language held by Fyzoola Cawn to the expectations he may flatter himself with of enjoying the exclusive advantages of an extensive and fertile part of the Vizier's dominions of his Jaghire; I am of opinion he would never engage in any hostile designs against the Vizier; my reason is, that if by fortuitous events a change of the sovereign of this country should happen, his situation would not be improved, on the contrary, he might be exposed to severe exactions, and possibly be entirely dispossessed. He has derived security, honour, and advantage from the Vizier's Government. I do not see how he could think himself benefited by a change, and therefore would hardly attempt to create disturbances.

Jealousies will in all likelihood continue to subsist between the Vizier and the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn, whilst the latter may possess the means of bringing an army of twenty thousand men into the field. In every step you may judge expedient to take in this matter I beg leave to submit to your consideration the situation of Almass Ally Cawn and Khauja ul Dine, as well as the general state of the Vizier's dominions; there is every reason to hope that the force now stationed in them will be sufficient to restore peace. In case Major Palmer should find he is likely to fail of success by negociation, I solicit your instructions how far you may be pleased to wait with the Vizier in enforcing obedience to his just claims.

I have the honour to be, with, &c.

Lucknow, (Signed) JOHN BRISTOW.
30th December 1782. Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Ordered, that the enclosure in this letter be entered after the consultation.

To Major William Palmer, on a Deputation from his Excellency the Vizier to the Nabob Fyzulla Cawn.

Sir,

I have had the honour to receive instructions from the Governor General and Council, to advise the Vizier to put an entire stop to the repeated alarms which have arisen in consequence of the jealousy subsisting between his Excellency and the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn. Having represented these circumstances to the Vizier, the most eligible mode, in his Excellency's opinion, of effecting this purpose, appears to be, by deputing a gentleman in the character of Public Agent on his part, who shall be authorized to settle all disputed points. I have taken the liberty to recommend that you should undertake this service; your character and abilities, and the confidence with which the Governor General

Digitized by Google

General is known to honour you, will give weight to your negociations, and establish, in the mind of the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn, a just sense of the unanimity of councils which subsists between the Nabob Vizier and the honourable Company.

For your information I enclose copies of such records of my office, as may assist your judgment: I shall next proceed to furnish you with instructions in behalf of the Vizier; and whenever, on future occasions, my services in seconding your representations may be necessary, I shall most heartily unite by every means in my power of affording consequence to your character.

The accompanying letters are your credentials to the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn; and an address from me, informing him that your appointment is in concurrence with the approbation of the honourable the Governor General. You will immediately upon your arrival endeavour to convince the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn, all doubts of his attachment to the Vizier are ceased, and whatever claims may be made of him, are founded upon the basis of his interest and advantage, and a plan of establishing his right to the possession of his Jaghire. It is not the intention of the Vizier to subject it to the general regulation which has taken place in other parts of his dominions, and he will only ask such aids of him as are consistent with justice.

The extract from the honourable Board's letter to me, under date the 22d of November 1782, will be your rule of conduct in regard to the great objects to be obtained by your appointment; the Nabob Vizier wishes that either a body of cavalry should be attached to his or the Company's troops, to march unconditionally to any country where their services may be required, or that a specific sum for the maintenance of a proportionable number should be defrayed by Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn; the said sum to be paid to the Vizier by monthly instalments. It is my duty however to give you my opinion, that you will meet with great difficulty in accomplishing these points; and unless the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn be satisfied of the unalterable resolution of the Vizier and the honourable Company to enforce their measures, he will evade, and possibly reject your propositions.

I am informed from the best authority of considerable improvements having been made in the Jaghier of Rampore; I hope before your arrival to furnish you with a statement of the actual revenue, which amounts at this time to at least thirty lacks of rupees a year, when the original grant was only fourteen lacks seventy-five thousand.—The Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn was put in possession at a period he had no claim to indulgence or protection from the Vizier, and

Digitized by Google

and he has since been treated with great distinction, and lived in affluence and security.—As a Jaghirdar he owes allegiance to the state from which he derives his honours and advantages, and it becomes a duty incumbent on him, to yield his support and assistance when they may be required.

About five months since a fray happened between two battalions of Sepoys in the Vizier's service, and a body of the Nabob Fyzoola Cawn's cavalry stationed at Darranegur, in which the Sepoys were defeated, and their guns taken. Upon enquiry it appeared the Vizier's troops were to blame;—the guns were returned, and the conduct of Fyzoola Cawn was not censured by the Vizier, who thought proper to order the usual detachment of (Fyzoolla Cawn's) cavalry, stationed at Darranegur, to be withdrawn and proceed from thence to Lucknow, where there would be occasion for their services. In answer to the Vizier's requisition, Fyzoolla Cawn evaded a compliance, and the matter was dropped.

The copy of my address to the Governor General, No. will inform you of a negociation for Fyzoolla Cawn's cavalry to act with General Goddard, and on his evading the proposition, that a sum of money was demanded of him.—Since my taking charge of the Residency, with the Vizier's approbation, I renewed the claim, not by application directly to Fyzoolla Cawn, but by first endeavouring to ascertain, through Allif Cawn, his Vaqueel at this place, the terms he would agree to. The letters that have been received from him on this subject you will find amongst the accompanying papers, No. by which it appears from his declarations that he is equally averse to paying money as to detaching troops. The Vaqueel explained his master's sentiments to me in a different manner, and flattered me with certain hopes of obtaining a sum of money, especially as the assurances the honourable the Governor General had been pleased to give him had removed all causes of alarm. Firmness in your demands will possibly accomplish the business, and he will acquisce when he finds the Vizier is determined on exacting his rights.

The stipulation for cavalry will be subject to inconveniences, such as doubts of the exertions and attachment of the commanders, and the refractory and turbulent spirit of the Afgaans in general. The Vizier has for this reason signified his commands to me, that you should endeavour to obtain from Fyzoolla Cown an annual tribute, the specific sum to ascertain upon the information you may heareafter transmit.

If you can procure from him, over and above this, a Peshcush of at least five lacks, it would be rendering an essential service to the Vizier, and add to the confidence his

Digitized by Google

his Excellency would hereafter repoſe in the attachment of the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn.—This is a matter he leaves to your diſcretion, but the annual ſtipulation is a claim his Excellency cannot relinquiſh.

As a further explanation of this ſubject, I beg leave to inform you the cavalry under the command of Abdul Rehman Cawn is paid at the rate of fifty rupees a man and horſe per month, which upon five thouſand would make thirty lacks a year to Fyzoolla Cawn, a ſum much above his means to defray, were the ſtipulation in the treaty to relate to cavalry only. The Vizier has explained the article relative to the relinquiſhing the advantages which may have been made by the improvement of the Jaghier, to comprize the period at which the treaty was concluded.—Any lands ſince cultivated do not come under this deſcription.

On your arrival at Rampore, you will be able to form a more correct judgment of the probability of the ſucceſs of your negociations; and as the Vizier repoſes entire confidence in your integrity and abilities, he authorizes you to ſuſpend the communication of his commands to Fyzoolla Cawn, if you ſhould find they were likely to be diſobeyed. Your failing would throw a ſlight upon the Vizier's dignity and authority; and in caſe of reſiſtance, it would be neceſſary to be informed of the pleaſure of the honourable the Governor General and Council, with regard to enforcing theſe meaſures.

You will obſerve, in the late Reſident's correſpondence and mine, the particulars relative to the ſuſpicions entertained of Fyzoolla Cawn's connection with foreign powers. It is a publicly aſſerted, that Fyzoolla Cawn has entertained more Afgaans than he is allowed to do by treaty.—I beg leave to recommend theſe points to your notice, as deſerving of enquiry.

The Vizier alſo requeſts you will endeavour to acquire a particular knowledge of the views and affairs of the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn, and report your information directly to him, or through me, whichever channel of communication may be moſt agreeable to yourſelf.

I am informed, "Aliff Cawn has written to the Nabob "Fyzoolla Cawn, that he ſuſpected the original deſtina-"tion of the troops under the command of Colonel Sir "John Cumming was for Secundera, to ſupport one of "the parties at the Court of Delhy. He ſuppoſed this "plan is now dropped, and that the Board propoſe order-"ing the detachment to Darranagur, in order to ſupport "the demands which may be made upon him. He com-"municated to his maſter the intelligence of your intend-"ed appoinment, the object of which was to exact

"money.—

Digitized by Google

" money.—Fyzoolla Cawn has directed Alif Cawn to re-
" ject all propositions for the payment of money, and has
" dispatched a Vaqueel to Calcutta for the purpose of ascer-
" taining the intentions of the Governor. In the mean
" time Fyzoolla Cawn was making preparations to put his
" country in a state of defence."

In order to ascertain the truth, I spoke to Alif Cawn upon the subject of the above intelligence. He confesses to have informed Fyzoolla Cawn that the detachment was to march to Darranagur to awe the Sieks and Gaajurs, but denies having ever intimated any design of exacting money of him.—What he communicated on this was from me in a friendly style, and in the terms which I have above explained to you.—He denies the circumstance of the preparations for defence, and repeatedly assured me of Fyzoolla Cawn's confidence in the honourable the Governor General's professions.—He accounts for the Vaqueel, by saying the man now in Calcutta (Sheo Persaud) neglects his duty, and therefore Fyzoolla Cawn has thought proper to send another person (Futty Sing) to relieve him.

I recommended to Alif Cawn to inform his master of your appointment, and that the object of it was to establish a firm and lasting friendship between the Vizier and the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn, and to put an end to the doubts and jealousies which had arisen. If it was intended to act offensively against him, the detachment would have marched directly to Darranagur; but no threat, or the appearance of compulsion, had been used, and he might rest satisfied that no violence was intended.

Lucknow, I have the honour to be, &c.
28th December 1782. (Signed) JOHN BRISTOW.
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Jumma of the Jaghyre of Rampore, for the Fussullee year 1190, agreeable to accounts furnished by the Nabob Fyzoolla Cawn, through his Vaqueel at Lucknow.

Shahabad Luckhore.						
Maul	—	5,56,729	1 —			
Sayer	—	28,804	— —			
				5,85,533	1	—
Ackberabad, and villages in the Purgunnah of Moorshedabad.						
Maul	—	1,55,025	5 —			
Sayer	—	4,497	— —			
				1,59,522	5	—

Maul — 1,44,718 8 —					
Sayer — 7,000 — —					
			1,51,718	8	—
Hazarutnagur, including Daghur, and the Sayer — —			2,36,848	—	—
Rahut —	including the Sayer	—	68,608	13	3
Rajour —	Do. Do.	—	1,61,261	7	3
Kaar —	Do. Do.	—	60,191	—	—
Larſabuck	Do. Do.	—	63,341	6	—
	Do. Do.	—	98,551	7	6
	Batally Rupees		15,85,576	—	—

N. B. Something more than 11,00,000 Pucka.

(Signed) J. WOMBWELL,
Accomptant.

Account of the Jumma of Fyzoolla Cawn's Jaghyre, for the Fuſſulleee Year 1189, with his Expences' agreeable to accounts furniſhed by Agents employed for the purpoſe, by Mr. John Briſtow, Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

Shahabad.		
Nuſſurut Khan's Zimma	5,15,000	
Khaujah Bux's Do.	1,95,000	
Saudeh's Do. —	1,90,000	
The brother of Mahomed Ally's, Do. —	95,000	
Mool Chund's Talook —	75,000	
Sirdar Cawn's Do. —	15,000	
Sundry villages, under Omar Cawn and others —	25,200	
Sundry Do. made over for the uſe of his women	15,000	
		11,25,200
Hauzarutnagur.		
Sahubra Moonſhee's Zimma	3,75,000	
Muſtapha Cawn Do.	10,000	
		3,85,000
Reyhur.		
Ruſtum Cawn's Talook — —		87,800
Rajepore, commonly called Petauſpore.		
Canaul Zaye Cawn's Zimma —		1,85,000
Ajaam under Nuttoo — —		1,75,000
Moradabad.		
Mahomed Ally Cawn, the Saheb Zade's Zimma, undercharge of Nuſſurut Cawn Chilah — —		1,95,000
Sheer Gurrah, 4 Mehauls —		2,25,000

The

The Sayer — —	70,000	
The Neemundy, &c. Awab —	1,57,000	
	26,05,000	

Khrutch.

Khass Russaulah,		
Ally Cawn Baraitch — —	25	Men.
Akbar Shaw, Do. — —	25	Do.
Nussurut Cawn, Do. — —	50	
Mahomed Nuz Cawn — —	35	
Nussurut Cawn Chelah — —	150	
With himself — —	250	
Gul Cawn — — —	50	
Mahomed Cawn Rudjah — —	150	
Ghewra Cawn — —	125	
Cawn Zade — —	50	
Mahommed Ally Cawn Russaulah.		
Eraudet Cawn — —	50	
Dullet Cawn — —	100	
Mahomed Cawn — —	25	
Mullah Zurruf Cawn — —	150	
Saheb Cawn Messareu Cawn —	70	
Ekehan — — —	350	
Nehaul Cawn — —	25	
Ahmud Cawn — —	50	
Ahmud Cawn, Rajah — —	50	
Noor Cawn's Russaulah — —	620	
Total Russaulahdars —	2,400	
Foot.		
Gholaum Mahomed Cawn, with the brother of Jubboo Cawn —	540	
Nussurut Cawn, Saheb Zodi, with the brother of Henet Khan —	100	
Mustujaub Cawn — —	540	
Abduck Huickum Cawn —	570	
Zur Mahomed Cawn —	540	
Syeef Deen Cawn — —	325	
Moolave Julanee — —	250	
Amar Cawn — —	150	
Bahadre Cawn — —	125	
Murdan Cawn — —	75	
Nobauzig Cawn — —	50	
A brother-in-law of the Nabob —	50	
Hussun Cawn — —	75	
Rustum Cawn — —	50	
Horse and foot —	5,840	Men.

5,840 men, at 1,25,000 per month for seven months, is, per annum	—		8,75,000
Expences of his family.			
The expence of his Begum		12,000	
6 Saheb Zadis	— —	35,000	
Mahomed Ally Cawn, Saheb Zade, 200 rupees per month more		2,400	
Nusser Ulla Cawn, his nephew	—	40,000	
The son of Mahomed Ecar Cawn		12,000	
Mustapha Cawn, Damaud	—	10,000	
			1,12,400
Doaub Charges	—		1,00,000
			10,87,400
Saving, Barelly rupees	—		15,17,600

(Signed) J. WOMBWELL,
Accomptant.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to Mr. Bristow.

To Mr. John Bristow, Resident at Oude.

Sir,

We shall in this reply separately to your letter of the 30th December, enclosing your instructions to Major Palmer of the 23d of that month.

We approve of the choice which you have advised the Vizier to make, of Major Palmer to conduct the negociation with Fyzoolla Cawn; but we think that the instructions you have given him are not sufficiently explicit; and we take particular notice of one clause in them, which we fear will defeat it altogether; we allude to the following Heads:

"On your arrival at Rungpore you will be able to form "a more correct judgment of the probability of the success "of your negociations; and as the Vizier reposes entire "confidence in your integrity and abilities, he authorizes "you to suspend the communication of his commands to "Fyzoolla Cawn, if you should find they were likely to "be disobeyed.

"Your failing would throw a slight upon the Vizier's "dignity and authority; and, in case of resistance, it would "be necessary to be informed of the pleasure of the honour-"able

" able Governor General and Council, with regard to en-
" forcing these measures."

To know whether Fyzoolla Cawn is likely to disobey the commands of the Vizier, Major Palmer must first make those commands known to him, which is in effect to make the communication which Major Palmer is instructed to suspend in the case supposed, of a likelihood of their being disobeyed.—We shall adopt the sentiment, but vary the mode of its application.

We shall now proceed to specify, in distinct articles, the points which we wish to have obtained, and which we conclude, from the general tenor of instructions which you have given to Major Palmer, to be conformable to the wishes of the Nabob Vizier.

1st. To convert the stipulation for a body of 5,000 horse and foot into a fixed subsidy.

It was certainly understood, at the time that the treaty was concluded, of which this stipulation was a part, that it applied solely to cavalry, as the Nabob Vizier, possessing the service of our forces, could not possibly require infantry, and least of all such infantry as Fyzoolla Cawn could furnish, and a single horseman included in the aid which Fyzoolla Cawn might furnish would prove a literal compliance with the stipulation. The number, therefore, of horse implied by it, ought at least to be ascertained—we will suppose 5,000 and allowing the exigency for their attendance to exist only in the proportion of one year in five, reduce the demand to one thousand for the computation of the subsidy, which, at the rate of 50 Rs. per man, will amount to 50,000 per Mensem. This may serve for the the basis of this article in the negociation upon it; but in the conclusion of it, we must trust to the discretion and integrity of Major Palmer.

If Fyzoolla Cawn shall refuse to treat for a subsidy, and claim the benefit of his original agreement, in its literal expression, he possesses a right which we cannot dispute, and it will in that case remain only to fix the precise number of horse which he shall furnish, which ought at least to exceed 2,500.—This also must be left for discretional adjustment.

To demand the surrender of all the reiats of the Nabob Vizier's dominions, to whom Fyzoolla has given protection and service, or an annual tribute, in compensation for the loss sustained by the Nabob Vizier in his revenue, thus transferred to Fyzoolla Cawn. His encouragement of the defection of the subjects of his Sovereign Lord, and his acceptance of their allegiance, is contrary to the most ancient and fundamental laws of the constitution of Hindostan, and a crime against the Nabob Vizier his Sovereign.

 You

You have ſtated the increaſe of his Jaghier, occaſioned by this act, at the moderate ſum of 15 lacks—The tribute ought at leaſt to be one third of that amount.

3dly. We conceive that Fyzoolla Cawn may be diſpoſed to yield to the preceding demand, on the additional condition of being allowed to hold his lands in Ultumgaw, inſtead of his preſent tenure by Jaghire. This we think the Vizier can have no objectiun to grant, and we recommend it. But for this a fine or Peſhcuſh ought to be immediately paid, in the cuſtomary proportion of the Jumma, eſtimated at 30 lacks.

Fort William, the 23d Jan. 1783. We are, &c.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Briſtow to the Governor General and Council, dated Lucknow, the 23d November 1782.

In my addreſs of the 13th inſtant, I had the honour to inform you of the ſituation of affairs in Rohilcund. Since that time letters have been received from Cojah Ayn ul Deen, conveying intelligence that he was no longer apprehenſive of the Seiks, as they had withdrawn from the frontiers. In my opinion, his giving the alarm proceeded from a diſinclination to attend at Lucknow, and this furniſhed the pretence for not coming. I am ſorry to ſay the diſturbances between his and Mirza Cazem continue; each have again complained of acts of violence being committed in their ſeveral diſtricts. The moſt poſitive injuctions have been iſſued, forbidding ſuch improper conduct. In the preſent ſtate of his Excellency's government, and at the ſeaſon of the year, no chaſtiſement could be exercised upon the offenders, unleſs the Vizier were to call for the aſſiſtance of the honourable Company's troops.—I hope, and indeed have every reaſon to expect, there will be no neceſſity for ſuch a meaſure.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſq. Governor-general, &c. Members of the Supreme Council at Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

I now beg leave to lay before you a detail of the ſervices on which detachments from the honourable Company's troops have been employed in the Vizier's dominions.

The inſurrections in Sahlone and its dependencies were created and ſupported by Rajah Bulbudder Sing, Zemindar of Tellooie, who having been diſpoſſeſſed of his Zemindary during the government of the late Vizier Suja ul Dowla, thereupon

thereupon attempted to raiſe diſturbances, and collected numerous followers. Suja ul Dowla immediately detached a very large force to Sahlone, with orders to ſhew no mercy. Great numbers of people, taken in arms, were put to death in the courſe of the campaign, and Bulbudder never again oppoſed the authority of government during his life-time.'

When Sahlone was granted in Jaghyr to the Begum, ſhe agreed to give this rebel an allowance, in lieu of land, of 500 rupees per month, and a beit upon the country, amounting altogether to about 12,000 rupees annually, and he ſtipulated not to create diſturbances. When the Jaghyrs were reſumed, that of the Begum fell under the general regulation, and the Aumil appointed by the Vizier refuſed to continue this allowance to Bulbudder, who in conſequence renewed his former depredations. Since the month of February laſt, the Majors Gilpin, Scott, and Lumſdaine, have been ſucceſſively employed in endeavouring to reduce him to obedience; it appears by the letters of thâſe officers, that he has met with repeated defeats, he nevertheleſs conſtantly appeared again after a ſhort time, followed by as great numbers as before. The inhabitants of that country in general look up to Bulbudder's family as the ſtock from which they have all deſcended; and zeal for their chief has united the circumjacent towns and villages in a league, to co-operate offenſively and defenſively in his favour. He is thus enabled to aſſemble, at the ſhorteſt notice, bodies of eight or ten thouſand men; and when attacked, if defeated he mixes with the crowd, and all attempts to apprehend him fail. His uſual reſort upon theſe occaſions is to the thick woods within the diſtrict of Sahlone and its dependencies; and unleſs detachments can be fixed at proper ſtations, to oppoſe and intercept his march from place to place, and prevent the people from aſſembling, it appears little ſucceſs would be likely to follow any military operations againſt him. When hard preſſed, he flies to ſome other provinces of the Vizier's dominions, or takes refuge in the Bundlecund country.

The officers who have commanded on this ſervice accuſe the Aumils and Phouzedars of negligence, and ſome of them even of conniving at the rebels' depredations. I have urgently recommended it to the Vizier to publiſh in their diſtricts his determination to puniſh, with the utmoſt ſeverity, the adherents and abettors of refractory Zemindars. The Aumils make a practice of exaggerating the miſchief done by theſe commotions, urging them as a plea for balances and claims of deductions; and thus, by their intrigues and management, much larger loſſes have accrued

Digitized by Google

to government on this account than had been actually sustained.

The expedients proposed to restore the peace of the districts of Sahlone, are either to station so considerable a force on the spot as would deter the rebel from any further attempts to disturb it, or, which appear in the present situation of affairs perhaps more adviseable, to grant him an allowance upon the plan formerly settled between him and the Begum. He is at present quiet, and has sent me a letter expressing in general terms his inclination to become a peaceable good subject. The inclosed letter from Major Lumsdaine I submit to your consideration, as a further explanation of this subject. As that officer appears to agree with me in opinion, that these commotions are not likely to be quelled by force, at least not the one he has with him, I propose, with your approbation, to try the other expedient.

Since the beginning of October Major Nicol has acted with a compleat regiment in the districts of Khyrabad and Mahumdy, which have long been remarkable for the refractory and turbulent spirit of the inhabitants. Since the Vizier's accession to the musnud, except when Almassallee Cawn farmed them, a very great proportion of the revenue has been annually lost to government, and the Phouzedars in general disgraced. Alee Reza Cawn, during his Aumildarry, lost his brother, and a number of his people, in different engagements with the Zemindars, and has been since upwards of two years, as I am informed, in confinement for balances; his case appears hard, and I have solicited his release. Almassallee Cawn collected the revenue, during his administration, by over-running the country with a numerous force, and exercising great cruelties. The mischief arising sometimes from a total relaxation of authority, and at others from the too violent exertion of it, has materially affected the cultivation. Those districts however being remarkably fertile, I am in hopes they may, by good management, be quickly restored. It appears, from the representations of Major Nicol, that they contain a number of forts, but being mostly in such bad repair as to be scarcely tenable, I have expectations that his assistance will have great effect in realizing the revenue. He is at present with the Aumil on a circuit through the districts, for the purpose of awing and compelling the appearance of the refractory Zemindars, all of whom, except one, as far as their circuit has extended, have given their attendance; and it is with pleasure I inform you, the measures adopted by Mahomed Hussein Cawn, the Aumil, are exceedingly mild, having succeeded hitherto more by the terror of his force than the actual exertion of it.

Khyrabad

Digitized by Google

Khyrabad and Mhaumdy were farmed by Almaſs Allee Cawn, at the time of his withdrawing himſelf from the Vizier's authority: his Naibs in conſequence relinquiſhed their charge; and they were for a period of ſome months in a ſtate of anarchy, no new Aumil having been appointed to them. The inhabitants, relieved from the ſeverities of his adminiſtration, quickly reſumed their former habits of independance; and the Vizier not having made any proviſion for an event like that of Almaſs's ſucceſſion, and being unable to furniſh a ſufficient body of troops to quell the inſurrections that followed, he was obliged to apply for a regiment from the brigade. I hope peace will ſoon be re-eſtabliſhed; and as the bankers have an aſſignment on thoſe diſtricts, I recommend the continuance of the detachment.

I addreſſed the Vizier very early after taking charge of my office on the ſubject of the tranſactions at Forrachabad; expreſſing your pleaſure, that the Nawaub Muzzuffer Jung ſhould be left in the free exerciſe of his authority over his Soubadarry, whilſt he might continue to execute his engagements with fidelity, and my inſtructions to withdraw, in that caſe, all interference on your behalf. I received in anſwer through the acting Miniſter, a very urgent requeſt to repreſent to you that Muzzuffer Jung had not fulfilled any part of his engagements from the time of the Sezaweel being withdrawn: that the accumulated balance at the end of the laſt, and the demand for the preſent year, amounted altogether to near twelve lacks of rupees: that the Nawaub Muzzuffer Jung had not appeared diſpoſed to take any meaſures for the liquidation of theſe claims: that his country was ill governed, the revenue made away with by his own ſervants, and neither he or the Vizier received their rights: that, therefore, ſeeing no hopes of realizing the tribute but by the interference of his authority, he (the Vizier) had thought himſelf reduced to the neceſſity of appointing Mahomed Syed Cawn his Sezaweel, and applying to the commanding officer in the field, through the late reſident, for the aſſiſtance of a military force; and Major Scott was accordingly ordered to march to Furrochabad; and he hoped, that, on due conſideration of the motives which influenced theſe meaſures, you would give them your approbation, and permit the continuance of the regiment on that ſervice.

It is expected that Mahomed Syed Cawn would have been reſiſted in the execution of his new office, by Sobkutulla the Miniſter inveſted with Muzzuffer Jung's authority; he however fled from the town ſhortly after the arrival of Major Scott's regiment; and though he ſtill remains in the country, I am in hopes no commotions will follow.

The acting Miniſter's propoſal was, to unite the offices of Naib on the part of Muzzuffer Jung, and Sezaweel from

from the Vizier, in Mahomed Syed Cawn. Muzzuffer Jung remonstrated against the Vizier's interference in the appointment of any of the officers of his own government, and refused to grant the Sunnud of investiture. This was the state of affairs by my last accounts from Furruckabad. The Vizier however perseveres in his measures, and has authorized Mahomed Syed Cawn to raise a battalion of twelve hundred matchlock men, to enable him to exercise coercion in the realizing his claims. He has transmitted a proposal for paying ten lack forty thousand (10,40,000) rupees in the course of the current year, which the Vizier has thought proper to approve; and directed five lacks to be appropriated on account the honourable Company's claims, and a provision to be made from the remainder for Muzzuffer Jung, and such expences as may occur for other services. His Excellency has enjoined Mahomed Syed Cawn to continue his solicitations to Muzzuffer Jung for the office of Naib; proposing to himself, no doubt, by this arrangement the sole controul in the government of Furrukabad.

Though Mahomed Syed appears to exert his endeavours to re-establish Muzzuffer Jung's authority, and settle the country, I cannot but think it very improbable that he, or any other man in his place, whatever measures may be adopted, will be able to collect near the amount settled in his engagement with the Vizier, which was concluded through an agent whom he sent to Lucknow, agreeable to a statement of the value of each particular Pergunnah transmitted by himself. I am informed the Zemindars of Furrockabad have mostly strong forts, are bold daring people, and have for some months past been accustomed to live independant of all controul. Mahomed Syed Cawn, owing to these causes, has made very inconsiderable collections hitherto, and the Khurrup harvest has entirely elapsed; he is now preparing to take a circuit of the country, which I hope will be productive of good consequences.

The utter incapacity of Muzzuffer Jung to conduct his affairs is notorious, and the Soubadarry of Furrokabad cannot but continue in the same state of confusion, unless the person invested with the executive authority shall be supported by the influence of the Vizier or the Company. The measures taken by his Excellency appear to me the best that could have been adopted for the recovery of his claims; but if they should not meet your approbation, I beg to be honoured with your commands on the subject. Muzzuffer Jung addressed a letter to me upon my arrival, complaining of the Vizier; he claimed my protection, and proposed to pay me a visit at Lucknow. I replied, that my instructions would not admit of any interference on my part between him and the Vizier, declined the honour he proposed me of

a visit,

Digitized by Google

a visit, and strongly recommended his immediately discharging the Vizier's claims. I take the liberty to inclose you a translation of the Vizier's requisition to me for the continuance of the regiment at Furrockabad. Major Scott's belonging to the 2d brigade, has been relieved by me from Colonel Sir John Cumming's detachment, and is marched to Cawnpore.

Mirza Ismael Beg, the Soubadar of Allahabad, has always most earnestly solicited support from the Company's troops, the force allotted him by the Vizier not being sufficient for the subjection of the country, which is in many parts filled with forts, and in Ariel the Zemindars are ever ready to create commotions; Captain Robert Dennis, with a battalion from Chunar, was therefore detached on this service in September last; he is now on the other side of the Jumna quelling some disturbances which have lately happened in that quarter.

Major Gilpin, with one battalion, has been stationed at Fyzabad, for the purpose of supporting the Vizier's claim against the Begum for the recovery of his patrimony deposited in her charge. I applied to the Vizier immediately upon my arrival, for his consent to withdraw this battalion, seeing little probability that violent measures would effect any further payments. I proposed to him, to trust to her generosity for the liquidation of the balance, which was about five lacks. The Vizier would not at that time acquiesce in my proposal, but determined on making one more effort previous to leaving it in her discretion to prolong the term of payment; his Excellency accordingly addressed a letter to the Begum, conveying his sense of her evading the performance of her engagements, in very harsh terms; and threatening, in case of non-compliance with them, that her eunuchs should continue in confinement, and means be taken to recover the money from her, as the Company would never be satisfied without it: the Begum in reply represented her inability, having paid away all the treasure ever entrusted to her charge by the late Vizier; but if the eunuchs were enlarged, she might, with their assistance, be enabled to raise money upon credit. On his Excellency's receiving this answer, I renewed my solicitations for permission to withdraw the battalion, resting the matter upon the Begum's promise of discharging the balance when her eunuchs should be released: I was induced to this measure by the representations of Major Gilpin, who had been employed in the business from the commencement; his opinion, asserting that every practicable coercive exertion had been used, I beg leave to submit to you in the enclosed copy of his letter to me on the subject. The Vizier at length acquiesced in the battalion's being withdrawn; for which I was the more anxious

anxious, as your inftructions to me difapprove of detachments, and the ftate of affairs requires the appearance of a formidable force on the frontiers.

There will now remain on detachments a complete regiment at Khyrabad, another at Sahlone, and a battalion at Allahabad, making altogether two regiments and a half, which I recommend to be continued for the prefent, as thofe countries appear to require their affiftance.—One of the battalions at Sahlone, and that of Allahabad, belonging to the Chunar ftation; Colonel Morgan has ftill with him, a body of three regiments and a battalion, and Colonel Sir John Cumming's force is complete. Whenever I may be apprized of the leaft danger upon the frontiers, I fhall not fail immediately to communicate my intelligence to the commanding officers.

In my account of the troops upon detachment I have omitted to mention the regiment at Lucknow, that being authorized by your exprefs fanction.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, (Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
the 1ft Dec. 1782. Refident at the Vizier's court.

To the Honourable Warren Haftings, Efquire, Governor General, &c. Members of the Supreme Council,

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Beny Madoo and Dukul Roy, the Talookdars of Suddooah Choba, in the diftrict of Goruckpore, have fled the Vizier's dominions, and taken refuge in Cowarry, in Sircar Sanies. Application had been made to me by the Aumil of Beraitch, Rajah Soorut Sing, through the acting Minifter, to requeft Mr. Grœme's affiftance in apprehending the above perfons, and delivering them over to his charge. I have accordingly addreffed Mr. Grœme, and in cafe he fhould not be authorized to apprehend the offenders without your inftructions, I have defired him to afcertain their places of refort.

In confequence of your commands, under date the 29th October 1782, I have procured the Vizier's orders to the Aumil of Goruckpore to apprehend Futty Saw, or any refractory Zemindars (agreeable to the defcription furnifhed me by Major Lucas) that may attempt to find an afylum in his dominions; and it is his Excellency's wifh to unite with you in preventing their depredations on the frontier provinces.

I have the honour to be, with, &c.

Lucknow, (Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
19th Dec. 1782. Refident at the Vizier's court.

Digitized by Google

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esquire, Governor General, and the Members of the Supreme Council, Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

I take the liberty to enclose you papers and accounts agreeable to the enclosed list, to which I beg leave to refer for a full explanation of the amount of the claims on the Nabob Vizier.

Immediately after my arrival I urged the acting Minister to devise and recommend arrangements for the complete discharge of the balance at the conclusion of the year; to relieve myself from censure, in case of failure in this essential point, it is necessary I should explain the transaction with the bankers. The balance, at the end of last year, was not, in fact, paid, but transferred to the bankers, and increased by the load of a very high interest.—There were two distinct engagements,

One for bills on the Presidency, for —	22,67,485	2	4	
Received in cash —	3,82,514	13	8	
				26,50,000 — —

Another for Teeps promising bills to be delivered by instalments at the following periods, and in the following proportions, viz.

As explained in Mr. Middleton's separate letter to me, No. 2.

Bhaudoun —	1189 —	6,50,000	
Coaur — —	1190 —	6,50,000	
Cautic — —	—	6,50,000	
Aughun — —	—	6,50,000	
			26,00,000 — —
			52,50,000 — —
Paid them from the balances of 1189			2,91,166 — —

By this statement you will observe the revenues of the present year have been anticipated in — 49,58,834 — — bearing an interest of 2 per cent. per mensem.—The whole demand upon the Vizier, on account of the honourable Company and the bankers, will this year amount to the sum of one crore forty-one lacks two thousand five hundred and seventy-eight rupees (1,41,02,578); Mr. Middleton gave his bond to the bankers, on account the first engagement, for rupees 26,50,000, engaging to see them repaid their money. The revenues of certain districts were assigned to him on account of the bankers, and were, as collected, to be paid to them.

When

Digitized by Google

When Almas Ally Cawn returned to Lucknow, a negotiation was set on foot to transfer the security from Mr. Middleton to him, and concluded a few days before my arrival. The bond was returned to Mr. Middleton, and Almass's granted in lieu of it. The additional districts proposed to have been entrusted to Almass were part of those assigned to the bankers, and the Vizier's order and other documents had passed for putting him in possession, a few days before my arrival. I was so soon expected, that Almass of his own accord deferred taking charge, as I have already informed you, until the measure should through me receive your sanction.

When I considered the power possessed by Almass, I did not hesitate to reject every idea of extending his authority. A difficulty occurred about the bond he had granted, and a payment he had made to the bankers of three lacks seventy-five thousand (rupees 3,75,000) the latter part was easily settled by giving him credit for that sum on account the revenues of Etawa, Corah, &c. but the bankers refused any security except mine, in lieu of the bond. The bills of exchange had actually been transmitted to the Board, and were in course of payment: to have annulled the engagement would have disappointed you of a resource, and hurt our credit with the bankers; it was absolutely necessary that Almass's bond should be returned to him, I was therefore induced to take the engagement upon myself, and I am happy to find, by your commands of the 22d ultimo, that my conduct has been approved of.

Although my attention has been principally directed to the liquidation of the balance, I have hitherto found it utterly impossible to procure assignments equal to the amount required. Districts have been over-rated to me; and before I can conclude a fair engagement with any Aumil, I am obliged in every instance to separate fictitious from just estimates, which takes up time, and is the cause of my not sending the accounts of the Vizier's revenues, which are now copying, and will be forwarded in the course of a very few days.

The bankers upon my arrival claimed my protection in realizing their demands; and on maturely considering the matter it appeared to me most adviseable to blend the honourable Company's and their claims under one head; unless I had done this, there would have been a perpetual interference in the collection of the assignments; and in case the bankers should have failed in realizing their monies, they would have fallen proportionably short in their payments at the Presidency; these were the reasons which induced me to unite the two accounts, and I hope they will meet with your approbation.

There

There remains a ſum of thirteen lacks on account of the teeps, for which bills of exchange on the Preſidency are now due. I took charge of my office without any caſh in the treaſury, and a ſum of near 30,09,000 rupees due to the bankers. I afterwards, under date the 2d November, tranſmitted you bills of exchange for 6,50,000 rupees, which (as my receipts at that period were very inconſiderable) accumulated the debt to near 36,59,000, the whole bearing an intereſt of two per cent. per Menſem. The bankers were diſinclined to give any more bills, until part of this balance was liquidated The ſeaſon of the heavy collections being ſo near at hand, it appeared to me moſt adviſeable to delay tranſmitting you other bills, until ſuch time as I might be able to pay the balance due to them, and I could receive further monies, and give them caſh for their bills, by which the Vizier would derive the additional advantage of ſaving the intereſt; and the difference to the Company would have been the delay of perhaps three months only in the receipt of the remaining to be remitted to the Preſidency, on account of the teeps.

All ſums hitherto collected have been paid to the bankers. In order to ſupply the demands of the Paymaſters to the troops in the field, I have borrowed a ſum of Fyzd. 16 Sn. Sa. Rs. 3,59,670. 4. 4; for this the Vizier is to pay an intereſt of one per cent. per menſem only, whereby a ſaving of as much more will ariſe on the intereſt, and was the reaſon why I preferred a loan to ſtopping that amount from the receipt of the bankers.

My time has of late been principally employed in urging the miniſter to ſupply funds for the current diſburſement of the Vizier's government, and the complete diſcharge of the balance due to the honourable Company; my endeavours ſhall not be wanting to accompliſh an object which I know will render ſuch eſſential ſervice to the Company's affairs at the preſent juncture. The propoſed retrenchments will be very conſiderable, and I ſhall ſhortly ſubmit them to your conſideration.

I have the honour to be, with, &c.

Lucknow, (Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
2d January, 1783. Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

Extract from Mr. Middleton's letter, dated 23d October 1782.

The moſt material object I have to claim your attention to, is the collateral agreement concluded by me, on behalf of the honourable the Governor General and Council, with the houſe of Gopaul Doſs Sah and others, for their ſecurity and reimburſement in the advance they were prevailed upon to make the Vizier, upon the credit and faith of this office,

office, for the liquidation of his Excellency's debts to the Company, and which subject you will find stated in my address to the Board of the 7th ultimo.

The advance for which the house of Gopaul Doss Sah singly and exclusively engaged was 26,00,000 rupees, which included the balance of the Vizier's account current with the honourable Company, as it stood before the additional claim made out by the Accountant General, at the Presidency, and sundry army debts of his Excellency, for which as they were an excess upon the original estimate formed at the commencement of the year, no provision had been made. The other sum of 26,00,000, for which teeps were granted in partnership by Gopaul Doss Buch Rauge Fukhar Chund, and Kissen Chund, payable by installments, as expressed in the teeps, were intended as a deposit in the hands of the Governor General and Council, for the liquidation of such part of the additional claim of 26,48,571. 3, 8, made out by the Accountant General, and transmitted to this office in October last, as the Board after taking into consideration the counter claims, and expectations of the Vizier, should deem equitable; for further information on this head, permit me to refer you to the contents of my address to the honourable Board of the 7th September, to which I have received no reply. For both these sums the Vizier has passed his separate obligations to the respective parties, and has granted assignments upon his revenue for the re-payment. But this alone, Sir, would have gone a very little way towards inducing the Shroffs to hazard so large a property in the Nabob's funds, had not the faith of our government been also pledged for their collateral security, which has been done by the strongest verbal assurances it was in my power to give them in my official capacity, and in the case of Gopaul Doss Sah, who is much deeper concerned than any of the others, a written engagement to support him to the utmost of my power in the recovery of his debts, for which Almass Ally Cawn stands immediately and exclusive responsible. He has already paid him to the amount of nine lacks, promising four more in the course of fifteen or twenty days, and the remaining thirteen lacks he agrees to make good in equal Kists, in the ensuing three months of Aughun, Phoos, and Maug, which I have not a doubt of his punctually fulfilling, if you think proper to confirm the assurances I have given, and yield your influence to the support of them, which I persuaded myself you will see the propriety of, as well from a principle of common justice, as an inducement to similar future exertions, should the exigency of the honourable Company's affairs at any time call for them. The other advance of twenty-six lacks being secured by assignments

Digitized by Google

ments upon reputable Aumils, I have little fear on its being realized, without giving you any further trouble, than that of giving your sanction to the measure, and occasionally making use of the influence of your station, to expedite the payment of the Kists, when the Aumils may shew a disposition to be tardy.

I must beg leave to refer you to my correspondence with the honourable Governor General, for a full account of the origin and nature of my transactions with the Begum's at Fyzababad; and the letters which have passed between me and the officers who have severally commanded there, will shew you the progress and present state of that business. The balance due from the Bow Begum, upon her agreement made in January last, after allowing her credit for the trifling articles lately sent here by Major Gilpin, will be about five lacks, which I apprehend may be realized, if you deem it expedient to continue the restraints which have been imposed for that purpose. She had indeed given Major Gilpin, the most satisfactory assurances of an immediate liquidation of this long depending account, in which I believe she was sincere; but, probably from an expectation of a change of measures upon my removal, she has lately retracted those assurances, and now declares her determination to make no further payments whatever, but upon the certainty of her Jaghire being restored to her; which I could give her no hopes of, as the propriety of its resumption has been sanctified by the approbation of the honourable the Governor General, who further expresly enjoins me, in his instructions of the of the 27th January, to exert my influence with the Nabob, to prevent the conclusion of any final settlement between him and the Begums, until I should be furnished with instructions from him or the Board on that head. Not having, since the above date, received any directions from the Board, or the Governor General, relative to the Begums, I know not what may be their wishes in regard to them, but I thought it at all events my duty, conformably to the spirit of the orders I had received, to retain possession of the Killa at Fyzabad, and the persons of the Bow Begum's two principal Eunuchs, until the sum she had stipulated to pay was fully liquidated, or the honourable Board should notify their further pleasure; and in this state, Sir, I commit the business to your future directions, expressing my sincere wish, that you may find means to effect the recovery of this balance, which among other balances, originally constituted a part of the securities made over to Gopaul Doss for the re-payment of his advance to the Vizier for the Company's use, and should, I apprehend, if possible, he realized for Almass Ally Cawn, who has

employed his own credit upon the faith of those funds for the immediate satisfaction of Gopaul Goss's debt.

' Accompanying, you will be pleased to receive a list of the claims for the services of the current year, together with the assignments which have been granted for the liquidations of them, amounting to Rs. 67,31,578. I did not take assignments for the maintenance of the four additional regiments, which I recommended to have appointed for the service of the Vizier's collections, as I knew not how far the honourable Board might be disposed to agree to the proposition; and, secondly, because the ministers have engaged that the charge of such an establishment, if granted, should be defrayed from the further deductions which might, in consequence, take place in the Nabob's present military expences. If, as the Nabob, seems to expect, the counter claims before alluded to should be admitted, and credit given his Excellency for the expence of Abdul Rhaman's corps of cavalry acting with General Goddard (on which subject you will find a letter from me to the honourable the Governor General, under date the 9th September) the assignments received will considerably exceed the amount claims; and his Excellency was very pressing with me to withhold taking assignments for the balance of 14,00,000, and the annual charge of Abdul Rahman's corps, until the honourable Board should have considered and decided upon his expectations: But I thought it necessary at all events, for the present, to be guided in my demand by the list of claims as they now stand, without reference to what may be the determination of the Board, as it is always much easier to relinquish superfluous assignments than to obtain additional ones. You will observe, I have included in the public claims the Nabob's debt to Mr. Frazer, in consequenc of orders I have received from the honourable the Governor General for that purpose. The bonds are lodged in the office.

To John Bristow, Esquire, Resident at the Court of the Vizier.

Sir,

Herewith I have the honour to deliver you the Teeps mentioned in my treasury account and public letter of this date, for 26,00,000; viz.

One Teep of Mensuram, in behalf of Gopaul Doss, for 13,00,000, payable as follows:

In Bhaudaun	1189	—	3,25,000	
Coaur —	1190	—	3,25,000	
Cautick	—	—	3,25,000	
Augun	—	—	3,25,000	
			———	13,00,000

One

One Teep in the name of Bushrauge Fukhar Chund and Kissen Chund, payable as follows:

In Bhaudoon	1189	—	3,25,000	
Coaur —	1190	—	3,25,000	
Cautick	—	—	3,25,000	
Aughun	—	—	3,25,000	
			———	13,00,000

I have to inform you, that the first installment of the above Teeps have been paid and remitted to the honourable Governor General and Council, as you will perceive by my treasury account.

Lucknow, I have the honour to be, &c.
23d Oct. 1782. N. MIDDLETON.

To John Bristow, Esquire, Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Sir,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 19th instant, enclosed with several Persian papers of intelligence, the contents of which I have duly considered; though, before receiving them, I was already apprized of the motions and numbers of the Seiks, both from Delhi and from Daranagur, and I cannot suppose but that Colonel Sir John Cumming has been duly informed of every thing that has passed so near to that part of his Excellency's dominions, and will have already taken the necessary steps in consequence. For the Board, in their letter to me, signify that the detachment under his command is expressly designed and stationed up there for the protection of that part of the Vizier's dominions which is most contiguous and convenient to the station of his troops, as you will find from the copy of their instructions to him, which I not long ago sent to you. And by the enclosed extract you will perceive, that I cannot send any orders to Colonel Sir John Cumming while he remains beyond the provinces of Korah and Owd, &c. therefore I can only recommend, that his Excellency should send orders through you to him, to send detachments from his force, upon the Seiks, without loss of time; or, should it be thought necessary, he may march against them with his whole force, and I will send a sufficient body of troops up for the protection of the Futteh Ghur station. But I judge that detachments, if properly disposed of, will effectually prevent the Seiks from entering and committing depredation in the Vizier's territories, for it is well known, that though their number is large, yet they are never considered to be a force; they will over-run and destroy a country suddenly, then quit it, and never will oppose a regular force equal to a regiment. *Even* some of the Vizier's ca-

 valry

Digitized by Google

valry, however, will be abſolutely requiſite to act in conjunction with thoſe detachments; and if ſome part of the large body of troops under Almaſs is ordered to co-operate with the detachments I cannot think that there is any danger of the Seiks making inroads into his Excellency's territories on this ſide of the Ganges. I am given to underſtand, that there are ſtrong detachments of Khoja Ayn Uddeen's troops ſtationed at Nangul, Daranagur, and Thay, and ſome to the ſouthward of Daranagur, which are able to repel any attempts in that part; which circumſtance, and the unlucky juncture of the diſputes between Mirza Shuffy Khan, and Mahomed Beg Khan, cauſing all the troops belonging to the contending parties to be drawn away out of that part of the Doabb, have occaſioned the Seiks coming ſo far down as Gurmucktiaſa and Anoop Shear. But I expect that thoſe Chiefs will very ſoon ſend troops, to ſave their Jaydades from being ravaged by theſe Freebooters, and to chaſe them away.

Should the ſervice require that Colonel Sir John Cumming ſhould march with his whole force againſt them, Major Nicol's regiment, being now not far from Furockabad, may be ordered to proceed immediately to take care of the Futty Ghur ſtation, ſhould there not be an immediate want of its ſervices where it is. And this would be more convenient than ſending any regiment from hence, which I would not willingly do, unleſs upon ſome emergency, as the Board and commander in chief have ſo repeatedly enjoined me not to detach any part of my force.

I cannot imagine that his Excellency will think of ordering a movement to be made of the brigade from this ſtation, for in my opinion it is any ways neceſſary, and it would be putting the company to a very great increaſe of expence, without ſerving any purpoſe, when the ſervice can without difficulty be performed without it. You are not ignorant that the Seiks have come down to the Ganges in as large numbers for theſe ſeveral years paſt as they have now, and you know what troops were appointed always for oppoſing their attempts, which was always effectually done; therefore I make no doubt that you will concur in the opinion of me of Colonel Sir John Cumming's detachment being equal to that ſervice, and that the ſame plans ſhould be adopted now as were formerly purſued.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Cawnpore, (Signed) JAMES MORGAN.
22d Jan. 1783. Col. Commg. the troops in the Field.

A true Copy,
(Signed) Wm. Cow, Secy.

To

Digitized by Google

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General, and the Members of the Supreme Council, at Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

The Seiks having made depredations within four Coſs of Delhy, and plundered Paſſoo in Anoop Sheir, a country on the frontier of the Vizier's dominion, as alſo attacked the Joyudaad of Kemmut Bahadre, whom they have obliged to retreat, apprehenſions were entertained that they might extend their operations to his Excellency's territories. Mirza Mahommed Cazim, the Aumil of the lands which were formerly held by Latɜufil Ally Cawn in Rohilcund, Khowja Arjun ul-dien, and one of Almaſs Ally Cawn's Naibs, repreſented the circumſtances to the Vizier communicating the meaſures they had followed for preventing the inroads of the Seicks. The Aumils of Rohilcund had collected troops at many parts of the river which were fordable; but they repreſent, that the frontier is ſo extenſive as to render it impoſſible to guard all places. Though the whole force ſtationed in that province, one thouſand ſeven hundred and forty cavalry, and ſix thouſand four hundred and ninety-two infantry, may be conſidered equal to fighting the Sikes, yet thoſe Marauders might commit depredations, retreat with their plunder, and the Vizier's troops could not come up with them. If the Sikes ſhould continue in the neighbourhood, they will be ſolicitous for a re-inforcement. In regard to Almaſs Ally Cawn, he has a ſufficient force to defend his diſtricts, if he ſhould diſpoſe of it judiciouſly.

The intelligence contained in the papers of news, and the repreſentations of the Aumils, are comprized in the particulars above recited. The inſtant I received it, which was the 19th inſtant, I diſpatched Perſian copies of my letter and paper to the Colonels Morgan and Cumming, requeſting they would follow ſuch meaſures as they might deem expedient for the preſervation of the peace of the Vizier's dominions; and that when I might be able to obtain his Excellency's commands, I would in courſe tranſmit them. I take the liberty to incloſe, No. 1, the copy of Colonel Morgan's anſwer to my letter; and No. 2 and 3, the tranſlation of the orders iſſued by the Vizier to Colonel Sir John Cumming, and the Aumils.

You will obſerve by Colonel Morgan's information, that depredations are the uſual practice of the Sikes. Laſt year Myrza Shuffy was employed againſt them, and the ſtation his army occupied ſerved as a barrier. Since the death of Nudjif Cawn, the dominions among his chiefs have afforded the Sikes an opportunity of committing depredations

 nearer

Digitized by Google

nearer the Vizier's dominions, and consequently render precautions more necessary.

The force with Almas Ally Cawn is not at the Vizier's disposal, for I am convinced he would not detatch any part of it, if he were ordered so to do. He has been employed in subduing refractory Zemindars, and he would urge in excuse, the unsettled state of his districts. He has lately taken and destroyed many forts, and the Zemindar of Lassry has resisted his authority. In obedience to your commands of the 22d November 1782, I informed him, he might have the assistance of two regiments whenever he should require them, but he has not made any requisition, and informs me, that matters of greater importance engage his attention at present. He professes obdience, and pays his Kists to the Company very regularly; but he objects to an assignment lately granted on him in favour of the Turk-Suwars, for nine lacks of rupees, urging this sum is not due. He declares his readiness to obey the Vizier's orders, and solicits his accounts to be settled, as he has discharged considerable drafts in favour of Sallar Jung, and other Tuncawders. Agreeable to the accounts furnished me by Hyder Beg Cawn, there appears an unappropriated balance of eleven lacks. His Vaqueel has promised to furnish me with the particulars, and I shall transmit them to your honourable Board.

The force of the Sikes is represented differently; but I have great reason to believe their numbers do not exceed fifteen-thousand. The strict injunctions you have given me not to advise detachments, except in cases of the greatest emergency, have prevented me from recommending any station to be established in Rohilcund; a respectable force is required to awe Almass Ally Cawn, and I shall, in obedience to your commands, cautiously avoid recommending detachments. This is the principle which has influenced my advice to the Vizier.

I shall on all occasions submit the plans recommended by the commanding officers to his Excellency's consideration, and give every weight in my power to their representations, particularly in obtaining bodies of cavalry to act with the honourable Company's troops. I am a opinion Almass Ally Cawn might evade making detachments, but I think he would willingly co-operate in the defence of his own districts, according to the plan proposed by Colonel Morgan. The collections on account the Rubby harvest being commenced, the heavy debt still due to the bankers, and a certain loss by a change of Aumils at the present season of the year, would create great embarrassment, if I was immediately to recommend the dismission of Almass Ally Cawn, or impress his mind with suspicions that might make him

withhold

Digitized by Google

withhold his Kifts. My attention is principally directed to the complete difcharge of the honourable Company's balance: on effecting this purpofe, it is my duty to recommend that all œconomical arrangements in the adminiftration of the Vizier's affairs, and the changes which ought to take place, fhould be executed by means leaft liable to create commotions.

Lucknow, 24th Jan. 1783. I have the honour to be, with, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Refident at the Vizier's Court

To the Honourable Warren Haftings, Efquire, Governor General, and the Members of the Supreme Council, Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

I take the liberty to forward you a copy of Major Palmer's letter to me of the 20th inftant.

Lucknow, 29th Jan. 1783. I have the honour to be, with, &c.
(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Refident at the Vizier's Court.

Copy of a letter from Major William Palmer to Mr. John Briftow, Refident at the Vizier's Court; dated the 24th January 1783.

Since my laft, advifing you of my arrival at this place, I have had daily conferences with the eldeft fon of the Nabob Fyzoola Cawn; in which every point of mifunderftanding and complaint between the Vizier and Fyzoola Cawn have been fully difcuffed, and the fentiments of the Board and the Vizier relating thereto, and their defire of removing them, and of fixing the fovereignty of the Vizier, and the dependance of Fyzoola Cawn, upon an unequivocal and permanent footing, clearly explained.

Fyzoola Cawn perfifts in denying the infringement on his part of any one article in the treaty, or the neglect of any obligation which it impofes upon him. He does not admit of the improvements reported to be made in his Jagheer; and even afferts that the collections this year will fall fhort of the original Jomma, by reafon of a long drought. He denies having exceeded the limited number of Rohillas in his fervice, and having refufed the required aid of cavalry made by Mr. Johnfon to act with General Goddard. He

waving

obferves, refpecting the charge of wading the Vizier's requifition for the cavalry lately ftationed at Daranagur to be ftationed at Lucknow, that he is not bound by treaty to maintain a ftationary force for the fervice of the Vizier, but

Digitized by Google

to supply an aid of 2 or 3,000 troops in time of war. Lastly, he asserts, that so far from encouraging the Reiots of the Vizier to settle in his Jagheer, it has been his constant practice to deliver them up to the Aumil of Rohilcund whenever he could discover them.

It is very difficult, if not impracticable, in my situation to obtain such information as might enable me to assign the degree of credit to which these denials and assertions of Fyzoola Cawn are entitled. From general appearances, as well as universal report, it cannot be doubted that the Jumma of his Jagheer is greatly encreased beyond the original grant. The number of Rohillas in Rampoor alone certainly exceeds that limited by the treaty for his service. It is not clearly expressed whether the restriction included Rohillas of all descriptions; but such was apparently the meaning of the late Vizier in the first treaty, since he required Fyzoola Cawn to send all above that number beyond the Ganges; and it is sufficiently known, that every Rohilla in this Jagheer, however occupied in ordinary, would appear in arms for the defence of Fyzoola Cawn, by whomsoever he might be attacked. But it does not appear that their numbers are formidable, or that he could by any means subsist such numbers as could cause any serious alarm to the Vizier; neither is there any appearance of their entertaining any views beyond the quiet possession of the advantages which they at present enjoy.

With respect to the increase of Jumma, although it has been solemnly relinquished by the Vizier, yet the concession having been gratuitous, so great a favour should certainly operate upon Fyzoola Cawn in a new and durable accommodation, proposed as much for his security as for the interest of the Vizier.

Fyzoola Cawn seems to be fully sensible that an engagement to furnish military aid, however clearly the conditions might be stated, must be a source of perpetual misunderstanding and inconvenencies, and he is very desirous of the remission of that stipulation for a compensation in money. But he and I differ widely in our idea of the equivalent to which the Vizier would be entitled for it. He offers only five lacks of rupees altogether; and I have given him my opinion, that the Vizier may reasonably demand that sum annually: But objections, or rather a refusal, so strong was made to any continual payments, that I am convinced he would risk any extremity rather than yield to it. I was, however desired to name a sum to be paid at once, in lieu of an annual demand: I mentioned twenty lacks of rupees as the least sum which I thought the Vizier entitled to, or that he would accept for the proposed concession. I have not yet been informed of Fyzoola Cawn's resolution upon this proposition;

Digitized by Google

proposition; but he rejects it, I shall have no further hopes of effecting such an accommodation as will be consistent with the interests and dignity of the Vizier, or the views of our government, and shall return immediately to Lucknow.

A true Copy.
(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esquire, Governor General, and the Members of the Supreme Council, at Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

Under date the 1st ultimo I had the honour to communicate to you a detail of the services upon which detachments had been made from the honourable Company's troops. The Vizier has found it necessary to continue the regiments at Lachlone and Khyrabad, a battalion at Allahabad, and six companies in the districts of Furockabad.

I have the pleasure to inform you three of the most refractory Zemindars in Khyrabad, named Mohum Sing, Hindoo Sing, and Naysut Sing, have been apprehended by the Aumil Mahomed Husseen Cawn; owing to this circumstance, the other Zemindars have been awed, the peace of that district is in a fair way of being restored, and I entertain great hopes the full amount of the honourable Company's assignment will be realized. I have the greater satisfaction in representing these transactions, as a heavy balance was to be expected in the revenue of Hydrabad.

In my address of the 1st ultimo, I also represented the improbability of my realizing the honourable Company's assignment on Firockabad, and I am sorry to inform you the negligence and inactivity of Mahomed Saaud Cawn, the Vizier's Sizawul, obliged the minister to advise his dismission from that trust, and Mirza Mahomed Beg, a man of good character, has been appointed in his place. The Nabob Mazuffer Jung deputed agent to Lucknow to complain of the great distress he suffered, and solicited in the most urgent manner that a part of the collections should be appropriated for his subsistence. Three lacks of rupees per annum is the sum which the minister recommended to the Vizier to be paid the Nabob Muzuffer Jung, in proportion to the actual receipts: Mahomed Beg was authorized to settle this matter, and make the payments, but I have not yet heard whether the proposition has been agreed to.

The confusion which had occurred in the administration of the affairs of Firockabad, and the repeated solicitations of the Nabob Muzuffer Jung, have induced me to unite with

Digitized by Google

with the minister in the late arrangements, as appearing to me the best that could be adopted under the circumstances which existed. The season was so far advanced as to render the removal of the Sizawul an improper measure, if there had been any probability of the business being well conducted by him; but by every information I could collect, it left me no alternative, but of risking a very considerable loss to the Vizier, or acquiescing in and supporting the new measure.

The Nabob Muzuffer Jung complained, that Mahomed Saaiid Cawn had seized upon the Tombs and Gardens of his ancestors, and sequestered the revenues appropriated for their support. The sum was trifling, and the act disgusted the people, and hurt the Vizier's reputation. I advised the relinquishing every appendage of this nature, and that the new Sezawul should be instructed, by every means in his power to conciliate the Nabob Muzuffer Jung.

The detachment in Sahlone has been constantly employed on service against refractory Zemindars in that and the neighbouring district of Pertabgur. The plan of inducing Bulbudder to return to his allegiance to the Vizier, by the grant of a pension and a buit upon the country, was found impracticable. He demanded a consideration of about thirty thousand rupees a year, and remained in the country threatening to create disturbances, if his demands were not complied with. A treaty with a rebel acting upon this principle was subversive of the Vizier's authority, and holding forth impunity to other ill-disposed Zemindars. He was told to quit the country, or attend at Lucknow, and a submissive obedient conduct in future might entitle him to the Vizier's favour; but as he rejected these propositions, a reward of twenty thousand rupees has been put upon his head. The Aumils of Sultanpore, Purtabgur, Sahlone, and the adjacent districts, were directed to use their utmost exertions to expel him the country, to ascertain the Zemindars of villages from which he draws his support; and that if the Aumils should even suffer him to remain unmolested within their jurisdictions, no deduction of revenue would be allowed, and they must expect the severest punishments for their neglect. They are directed to co operate and detach the troops they may not immediately require for the collections in constant pursuit of Bulbudder. The Vizier has thought proper to approve a proposal of Major Lumsdain's, for keeping one battalion for the protection of Sahlone, and detach the other upon this service. I have recommended to him to avoid burning or destroying villages, upon the supposition that the inhabitants assist Bulbudder. Such persons as are found in arms he is requested to use

Digitized by Google

use his endeavour to apprehend, that the Vizier may administer justice after a formal and fair trial.

The reward put upon Bulbudder's head, and the strict injunctions to the Aumils, if they be enforced, ought ultimately to effect the seizure of Bulbudder, or else render his residence (which I hope it has effected) in the country so dangerous, that it at all events will prevent his creating disturbances in future. I have applied to Mr. Markham to endeavour to seize him, if he should take refuge in Benares, which he used to do whilst Cheyte Sing held the Zemindary.

I yesterday received intelligence that Bulbudder, Bahadur Sing, aud Amrow Sing, had collected a great force at Norvaijee, a fort on the confines of the districts of Monickpore, Allahabad, Purtabgur, and Sahlone. Captain Jaques, with one battalion of Sepoys, in conjunction with the Aumils, had surrounded and taken the fort, in which they seized between eight and nine hundred persons. Bulbudder and Behadur Sing had made their escape; but Amrou Sing, and a famous insurgent of the name of Gundchany, were secured, and they and their families have been detained by the Aumils. The other prisoners were suffered to leave the fort upon laying down their arms, to the number of five hundred matchlocks, besides swords, bows, and arrows. The people with Bulbudder are dispersed, and I understand he has quitted the country. This success was attended with the loss of very few lives; and I hope a capital example of the two ringleaders, after a fair trial, will intimidate other refractory Zemindars.

I have the pleasure to inform you the Kists of the honourable Company's assignment on Sahlone have been regularly paid, entirely owing to the military aid granted by the honourable Company.

I have found it necessary, to comply with the Vizier's orders, to continue the battalion under the command of Captain Dennis in the Soubah of Allahabad. That officer is now acting with the Aumils Naib's on the borders of Reeva Mockunpore. In consequence of the honourable the Governor General's directions, and the passes granted by Mr. Anderson, I have occasionally procured Dustucks from the Vizier for several Marattas to perform their religious ceremonies at Allahabad. The Kelludeer Abdul Shackoor made a practice of disregarding those Dustucks, and exacted duties from the Pilgrims, and otherwise ill treated them, notwithstanding the collections were entirely under the management of the Subadar. Sewayjy Otul, a Maratta chief, who Mr. Anderson requested I would represent to the Vizier in a character of equal rank to Mahajy Sindia, and advise his being treated with particular distinc-

tions,

Digitized by Google

tions, is now arrived at Allahabad. His Excellency has directed the officers of his government to attend him, and, in conformity to Mr. Anderson's requisition, I have deputed for the same purpose Mahommed Umjeed, a man of respectable character. I have requested Captain Dennis to grant his assistance; but if the conduct of Abdul Shokoor had passed with impunity, at the time a man of Sewajee Eteel's high rank performed his ablutions, it would have given an unfavourable impression of the Vizier's government; and, in consequence of my advice, he has been dismissed his office, and his violences to the Marattas will be the reason assigned to Sewajay Eteel.

A daring banditti at Litcha Gyre, in Kewarjee, a district in the province of Allahabad, made a practice of infesting the river, detaining, robbing, and often murdering passengers and merchants. The Naid connived at these outrages. The Vizier has dismissed him his office; and I have requested Captain Dennis, when the service will permit, to support the new Naib in driving this banditti from their place of refuge, and apprehending as many as he may be able.

The sure means of rendering the Vizier's alliance honourable and advantageous, will be to restore his authority, and the peace of his dominions. Great losses in the revenue have unavoidably arisen, owing to the total want of subordination among all ranks of the officers of government, and the perpetual insurrections of Zemindars: The Vizier can only look to the honourable Company for effecting a change; his own military is at present unequal to the task; and I hope you will assent to the detachments remaining until the service may be compleated, especially as great advantages are derived by them to the Vizier's affairs.

A general order has been issued by the Vizier to prevent Zemindars from building or repairing forts, and that those taken should either be garrisoned by his Excellency's troops, or destroyed, whichever might be most adviseable.

I beg leave to state the whole force now detached; viz.

From Chunargur.		Regiments.	Battalions.
In the Province of Allahabad, under the command of Captain Dennis —		—	1
In Sahlone, under the command of Major Lumsdaine — —		—	1
From the detachment under the command of Colonel Sir John Cumming.			
An escort for Major Palmer's companies	2		
Do. — Major Browne —	2		

Stationed

Stationed with the Sezawul of Ferockabad — — —	6		
	—	1	—
From the second Brigade stationed in Hydrabad, under the command of Major Nicol — —	—	1	—
In Sahlone, under the command of Captain Jaques — —	—	—	1
The regiment at Lucknow —	—	1	—
Regiments	—	4	1

The force remaining at Cawnpore will be three regiments and a battalion, and at Futty Ghur four regiments. The commanding officers in the present state of affairs deem these to be respectable bodies of troops, and upon the least apprehension of danger I will immediately request the recall of the detachment.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, (Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
30th Jan. 1783. Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Ordered, That the papers enclosed in the above letters be entered after the consultation.

To John Bristow, Esquire, Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Sir,

From your having requested me in your letters to use my utmost endeavours to restore peace to this distracted country, I take the liberty of laying before you my sentiments of the mode I judge most effectual to attain the end you seem so much to desire.

To establish peace and quiet in this country two ways can only be adopted, either quelling the disturbances by force or by giving the Rajah Bulbudder such allowances as may be thought adequate to his rank and influence in the country. As an officer at the head of a detachment employed to crush the rebellion, the decisive exertions of a military force first naturally present themselves; and there can be little doubt entertained but that a detachment of artillery, a regiment of Sepoys, and 500 of his Excellency the Vizier's horse, is a sufficient force to compel the rebel to relinquish this country or even to expel him the Vizier's dominions: Were the different Fouzedars, under the severest penalties, obliged to attack him and his adherents, wherever they should take refuge, in their particular districts and to punish in a most exemplary manner such of the Zemindars in their governments, who should conceal, protect, or assist the rebel, such a plan, vigorously exerted, would no doubt force the rebel

to

Digitized by Google

to quit the Vizier's dominions. The difficulty of apprehending him is so great, that it can scarcely be hoped for. It is probable, that when he found himself attacked on all sides, he would retire across the Jumna to Chitterpore, the place of his residence in the time of the late Vizier, and that immediately on the recall of the detachment from this country he would again return, and re-commence his destructive depredations; nor would it be necessary for him to bring a force with him; no part of the world abounds so much with soldiers of fortune as Indostan, who in crowds enlist under any standard, encouraged by the hopes of plunder or of pay. The Zemindars are much attached to the Rajah, whom they consider as their hereditary Prince, and never fail to assist him; they also find their advantage in fomenting the disturbances, as they withhold their rents from government under various pretences, and give but a trifling consideration to the rebel.

From the above reasons I am clearly of opinion, that the allowing the Rajah a pension, suitable to his rank and influence in the country, is the most certain mode of attaining a permanent peace, and it is, considered in an œconomical view; the advantages to the Vizier (indeed I may say to the Company, their affairs being so connected) are so obvious, that it is unnecessary to remark them. The Vizier will get rid of the expence of the detachment, and the Company will have a force which may be employed elsewhere. The great difficulty which the officers of government at present meet with, in realizing the revenues of the country, will be removed, as the inhabitants, on the disturbances being quieted, would bring back to their villages their families, cattle, and effects, of course government would have some security for the revenue, whereas at present they have none.

When I consider the matter further in a political view, I see also strong reasons for coming to an accommodation.—The Rajah Bulbudder is the lineal descendant of the most powerful Hindo family in this part of Hindostan. Connections with him are eagerly sought after, as they are thought to confer honour; he is much respected himself, nor is his rebellion against government looked on as a crime, on the contrary, all the Zemindars in the contiguous districts are inclined to assist him, and some are even induced to follow his example.

I have given you my opinions with candour, and to the best of my judgment; in delivering them, I have been guided solely by a desire to promote, to the utmost of my power, the public good. They must appear to you disinterested, for if the plan I submit to you is followed, the occasion

Digitized by Google

ſion for my ſervices in this part of the Vizier's dominions will I hope ſoon ceaſe.

I have the honour to be, with reſpect, &c.

Camp, near Dookah, 16th Nov. 1782.

(Signed) J. LUMSDAINE.
Major commanding at Sahlone.

A true copy.
(Signed) William Swainſton,
Aſſiſtant to the Reſident.

From his Excellency the Vizier Aſof el Dowla, to Mr. Briſtow, Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

The whole of the amount the Noaub Muzuffer Jung engaged to pay remains due; the Sezawol I ſent to receive it had Jaydeeds granted him by the Noaub, but on account of the Noaub Muzuffer Jung's careleſſneſs no revenue has been collected, and the Zemindars are making diſturbances in the country; without aſſiſtance from hence, there will be no order in that country. Mr. Nathaniel Middleton obtained a regimenr to be ſtationed there, which is ſtill there. I requeſt you will write to the Major to aſſiſt the Sezawol, when he requires it, in the collections; were I to find troops, the expence of them would be deducted from the amount of the Company's Tancaw, therefore it is neceſſary to permit the regiment to be ſtationed there.

A true tranſlation.
(Signed) ROBERT GREGORY,
Aſſiſtant to the Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

To John Briſtow, Eſquire, Reſident at the Court of Lucknow.

Sir,

Before my return to Fyzabad, the Bhow Begum had replied to his Excellency the Nabob Vizier's letter, the contents of which I imagine he would communicate to you.

The elder Begum I underſtand (from report only) never intends to put pen to paper to him again.

What probability there may now be of ever receiving the balance from the Begum, you (from her letter to the Nabob) will be beſt able to judge. But I am clearly of opinion, that whilſt her eunuchs Bahar and Jewar Ally Cawn remain priſoners, and the battalion continues here with any reſtraint on her, that ſhe never will agree to pay a further ſum on the ſcore required; and indeed it appears to me only recoverable by moderate means. If the priſoners were releaſed, and the troops withdrawn from her, I fancy ſhe would in a ſhort period enter into a negotiation with you, and on certain terms be induced to pay the ſum wanted.

Incloſed

Digitized by Google

Inclosed I send you the copy of a letter which I received this morning from her. The circumstance of her servants quitting her for want of subsistence is very certain and public, and whether real or fictitious, I will not take upon me to determine; but I judge it necessary to make you acquainted with the circumstance.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Fyzabad, (Signed) MARTIN GILPIN,
18th Nov. 1782. Major commanding.

A true copy.
(Signed) William Swainston,
Assistant to the Resident.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to Mr. Bristow.

To Mr. John Bristow.

Sir,

Having received and taken into our consideration the following letters from you, we shall now transmit you our sentiments and orders upon them.

* 23d November,
* 1st December
11th Ditto,
* 19th Do. two letters.
20th Do.
* 30th Do.
* 2d January,
13th Ditto,
* 24th Do.
29th Do.
* 30th Do.

19th December. We have received a letter from the Collector of Sircar Saurun, informing us, that one of the Vizier's Talookdars, said to be fled into that district, has been discovered, and desiring our orders regarding him. We have in consequence directed the collectors in this, and every other instance in which the Vizier's Talookdars or Aumils shall abscond to avoid payment of their balances, and application be made to him by the Resident for that purpose, he shall cause them to be delivered up to the officers of the Vizier's government.

1st December, 30 January. We approve very much of the conduct which you have observed respecting the rebellious Zemindars, and the means which you inform us you had recommended to the Vizier for quieting the disorders, and restoring the peace of his country. On this occasion we

we have only to recommend the ſtricteſt attention to the inſtructions which you have received from the Governor General, and to deſire that you will make them your conſtant guide.

While the diſordered ſtate of the Vizier's dominion ſhall require the preſence of the military detachments which have been ſtationed for their defence, we muſt approve of the continuance of them, and truſt to your diſcretion and judgment, poſſeſſed as you are of our ſentiments on this ſubject, to prolong or abridge the period of their continuance, according to the nature of the circumſtances which may preſent themſelves; yet it does not appear to us why ſo many detachments are neceſſary, while the army under the command of Colonel Sir John Cumming remains inactive, and confined to a ſingle ſtation, ſince the ſame ſervices which are performed by the other detachments might be rendered with equal effect by this corps. Theſe are our ſentiments, formed upon your report of the ſtate of the country, and the diſtribution of our forces in it; but we only ſtate them as ſuch, without grounding any orders upon them, as we cannot depend ſufficiently upon our own information, and are ſatisfied to rely on your knowledge, ariſing from a nearer and more complete view of affairs; but we deſire that you will report to us very minutely any arrangement which may be finally made after the receipt of this letter, for the defence and protection of the Vizier's dominions.

We approve of your conduct regarding Abdul Shuckoor, the Kelladar of Allahabad; but the ſimple diſmiſſion of a perſon for repeated diſobedience of orders, aggravated by the diſreſpect ſhewn to this government in his contempt of its recommendations, was by no means a ſufficient puniſhment for the offence; we think at leaſt that a penalty equal to the ſums he has taken againſt orders ſhould have been exacted from him.

We deſire that you will recommend it to the Vizier, to direct and enforce the ſtricteſt forbearance in all his officers from collecting duties on, or otherwiſe moleſting any perſons who may be poſſeſſed of his paſſports, granted in conſequence of recommendations from this government, for proceeding to any part of his dominions to perform their religious ceremonies, as the influence of ſuch acts might have an evil tendency over all our political connections in India, from the report of the perſons affected by them.

We approve of your conduct with reſpect to the Nabob Mozuffer Jung, and the tranſactions at Furruckabad. We deſire you will inform us if any, and what means have been taken for recovering the balance due from the Begum at Fyzabad, and if neceſſary, that you recommend it to the

Digitized by Google

Vizier to enforce the most effectual means for that purpose.

Fort William, We are, &c.
3d March 1783. (Signed) WARREN HASTINGS,
EYRE COOTE,
EDWARD WHELER,
JOHN MACPHERSON,
JOHN STABLES.

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, 6th March, 1783.

Read a letter as follows from Mr. Bristow:

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esquire, Governor General, &c. &c. &c. Members of the Supreme Council, Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of Major Palmer's letter to me of the 16th instant, mentioning the terms which he had settled with the Nabob Fysoola Cawn.

I have represented the particulars to the Vizier, and am directed by his Excellency to inform you that he shall readily consent to the agreement proposed by Major Palmer, provided it meets with the approbation of your honourable Board.

I am with, &c.
Lucknow, (Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
23d Feb. 1783. Resident at the Vizier's court.

Copy of a Letter from Major William Palmer to Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Vizier's Court; dated Rampoor, 16th February 1783.

I request you will be pleased to inform his Excellency the the Vizier, that last night the Nabob Fysoola Cawn came to a final agreement with me upon a disputed article in the treaty, respecting a military aid in time of war, to be furnished by him to the Vizier. He had before consented to give the sum of fifteen lacks of rupees, which I demanded for the remission of that obligation, but we had differed in the periods and amounts of the installments by which it should be liquidated. I required one half to be paid to me now upon the spot, and the remainder at the commencement of the next Rubby collections; after much altercation, and various propositions from the Nabob for a longer time, and smaller Kists, I at length consented to accept of five lacks in specie, to be immediately advanced to me, five lacks

Digitized by Google

lacks to be remitted to the Vizier at the beginning of the ensuing Thurreef, two lacks more at the following Rubby. and the remaining three lacks at the Thurreef.

I flatter myself that the Vzier will approve of this adjustment, which appears to me a very beneficial composition for an aid not clearly defined, and which, if admitted in its most extensive construction, was not likely to prove of any material service to him.

I explained to Fysoola Cawn the very liberal and important concession which the Vizier had consented to make him at the recommendation of the Board; and he professes to be fully sensible of the value of it, but declares that his poverty precludes him from availing himself of their generous intentions. He has perhaps different motives for declining so advantageous a proposal, and I did not think it for the Vizier's interests to urge his acceptance of it, being convinced that the principal objects of my commission will be attained without ceding the Vizier's sovereignty and property in the Jagheer, since the compromise for the troops, and an engagement which I have exacted from Fysoola Cawn not to receive or protect the Vizier's Ryats, will effectually dry up the chief sources of uneasiness and apprehension on both sides.

The real state of the Jageer, the character and conduct of Fysoola Cawn, and other matters of which his Excellency may wish to be informed, I shall explain to him at large, as they appear from the best observation and enquiry I can make, when I have the honour to attend him at Lucknow. In the mean time I think it necessary to assure him, in general, that I do not perceive the smallest symptoms of disaffection in Fysoola Cawn, or means of making it alarming to the Vizier, if such really exist.

I shall set out on my return to-morrow morning.

(Signed) J. NEAVE,
Assistant to the Resident
At the Vizier's Court.

Agreed, That the following letter be written to Mr. Bristow.

To Mr. John Bristow.

Sir,

We have received your letter of the 23d February, enclosing copy of one from Major Palmer, dated at Rampore the 16th February 1783, which contains the terms of his final adjustment with the Nabob Fysoola Cawn, for the payment of the subsidy due from him to the Vizier for the reason of the stipulation in the treaty, for the military assistance of the former.

Digitized by Google

As the Vizier delays signifying his consent to this adjustment, until he receives our sentiments upon it, we desire you will inform him that it meets with our entire approbation.

Fort William, We are, &c.
the 6th March, 1783.

Extract of a secret Letter from Bengal; dated 10th March 1783.

Par 2. We have likewise the pleasure to acquaint you, that Major Palmer, who was deputed by the Vizier to Fyzula Cawn to propose and adjust a proper definition of that article of the treaty with him which enjoined the military aid of that chief, whenever it should be required by the Vizier, has obtained fifteen lacks of rupees, which are to be paid by three installments, for relinquishing the stipulation. This is a valuable compensation for expunging an article of a treaty, which was of such a tenor, and so loosely worded, that the Vizier could never have derived any real advantage from it. The money will of course be received by the Company, in part liquidation of the Vizier's debt, and we are happy to believe that this arrangement will meet with your approbation, as it will prevent future disputes between the Vizier and the Rohilla Chief. Our troops in Oude were paid up all their arrears, by the last accounts from the Resident.

Extract of Bengal General Consultations, 7th March 1783.

Read the Company's General letter, dated 28th August 1782.

On Paragraphs 4, 5, and 6.

The Governor General,

As I am already apprized on the sentiments and intentions of the members of the Board, what I shall have to say on the subject of the preceding paragraphs cannot in justice be imputable to a disrespect of the Court of Directors orders, to which in all cases I shall pay the most implicit obedience, with the single exceptions of such as shall in my opinion tend to the destruction of their own affairs. I have already afforded the strongest evidence, both of the respect and of the obedience which I profess, in the conduct which I have observed both to Mr. Bristow and to Mr. Fowke: Had it been dictated by that vindictive spirit which seems to have been imputed to me, I should have shewn it by vindictive acts; but neither can Mr. Bristow nor Mr. Fowke charge me with such a treatment of them, even in the slightest instance. Though the first instrument used and proclaimed

Digitized by Google

claimed for the dissolution of my authority, during the existence of a late influence, yet I have most studiously conformed to the orders of the Company respecting both, as far as I could do it without destroying the influence of my office and that of the government connected with it, by conforming to the letter of the Court of Directors with respect to the one, and the spirit of them with the other: as soon as an occasion afforded for the appointment of Mr. Bristow under such circumstances as I thought would maintain the powers of this government undiminished by it, I myself proposed his appointment; and to give it every effect in my power, I commissioned my own Secretary, Major Palmer, to introduce him to the Vizier as a man of my own choice, and in my own confidence. As a further proof of my temper, and wariness of my conduct in an occasion so delicate, I appeal to a fact in the knowledge of the members of this Board, and which Mr. Bristow himself will attest; that when I had privately declared to him my intention of recommending him for the appointment, I desired Mr Bristow himself to write a letter to the Nabob Vizier, mentioning my wish in this respect, and my further desire that it should be effected with his entire concurrence, which I considered as indispensable; at the same time I directed Rajah Govindram, the Agent or Vakeel of the Nabob Vizier, to inform him of the favourable sentiments which I at that time entertained for Mr. Bristow, lest he might be misled, by a contrary opinion, to withhold the declaration of his assent. I received his assent, and immediately proposed the appointment.

With respect to Mr. Fowke, when I conceived it an obligation of public duty to remove him from a station in which his continuance appeared to me prejudicial to the service, I proposed, and the Board made him a most ample compensation for the loss of it, by bestowing on him an office of higher emolument, and better adapted to his talents; and in that construction of the Company's orders, I did conceive that I had conformed most exactly to the spirit, though not the letter of them, since it was impossible for me to believe, that the preference given by them to Mr. Fowke could arise from any consideration of his superior qualifications. My present objection to his appointment I dare not put upon record; the members of the Board individually know it. I lament, that while the preservation of the Company's existence depends wholly and exclusively upon this government; while it has been acknowledged, even by the Court of Directors themselves, that the exertions of this government have been equal to that dependance; while I am pointed out by their constitution, and considered by all the chiefs of Hindostan, as the executive member of this

 government,

Digitized by Google

government, and of course every person representing it as more especially representing myself; and while the Court of Directors themselves, knowing me to possess no more power than any other member of the Company's, pass their censures on me singly for many acts done by the Council at large; they should not be aware of the great danger to which they expose their affairs, by acts which disqualify me for the official discharge of my duty, which obviously tend to excite distrust in such of the powers of India who were disposed to be connected with the Company, and to invite their own subjects to rebellion. I forbear to say more in this place—the Board know what is due to their stations, under the conclusive ties by which they are bound to exercise the powers of this government, entrusted to them by act of Parliament, for the preservation of the great interests of the Company, and the nations which are connected with it, and to obey the orders of the Court of Directors, enjoined by the same high authority; and they well know to which a preference shall be given, if in the present instance the latter shall appear to them incompatible with the former.

Ordered, That these paragraphs, with the Governor General's minute thereon, be circulated for the consideration of the members of the Board, that they may deliver their opinion at the next meeting in this department.

Extract of Bengal General Consultations, the 10th March 1783.

The Board now record their different opinions respecting Mr. Fowke's appointment to Benares.

The orders of the Court of Directors, regarding the appointment of Mr. Fowke to Benares, are positive and distinct, and in my opinion ought to be carried into execution immediately.

(Signed) JOHN STABLES.

Mr. M'Pherson,

The ground upon which the Court of Directors are pleased to order obedience to their orders, relative to the appointment of Mr. F. Fowke to the Residency of Benares, is so strong that nothing remains with the Board, but to carry the orders into execution. I cannot at the same time but observe, that the conduct of the Governor General upon this occasion, in not soliciting, direcly or indirectly, a concurrence with any opinion we may have upon this subject from any member of the Board, is much to his credit; as well as his conduct, in carrying into effect the appointment of Mr. Bristow to Oude, upon a late occasion, when that appointment had the countenance not of party, but

Digitized by Google

but of an united Council, ſupporting the wiſhes and orders of their conſtituents.

I am perſuaded that the Court of Directors have been made to believe, that the removal of Mr. Fowke from Benares originated from motives of perſonal reſentment towards Mr. Fowke, and a diſreſpect to their own authority, otherwiſe that they would not have ordered ſo poſitively an immediate change in the repreſentative adminiſtration of a Province ſo recently recovered from rebellion.

The future adminiſtrators of theſe provinces will acknowledge their obligations to the Governor General, in having on every occaſion maintained the policy, as well as privilege, which ſhould veſt in the immediate rulers of this, as of every ſtate—the choice of their own agents; and had not the diſpute about filling the Reſidency of Benares originated at this board, the Court of Directors would not I believe, have taken ſo decided a line relative to the appointment.

Mr. Wheler,

Although it will require the peculiar attention of this government to avert the conſequences which may reaſonably be expected from ſo ſudden and unlooked-for a revolution in the management of the Company's affairs at Benares, I am nevertheleſs of opinion, that the orders of the Court of Directors reſpecting the re-inſtatement of Mr. Fowke, are reſtrictive on this Board; and I am the more confirmed in the propriety of carrying them into effect, from the knowledge which the Court of Directors poſſeſſed, at the time they wrote this letter, of the ſteps taken by the Governor General to conciliate Mr. Fowke to his removal from the Reſidency at Benares.

Sir Eyre Coote,

It does not appear to me, that any conſideration is allowed me in reſpect to the obedience required by the Court of Directors to the orders contained in their laſt general letter of the 12th July. The terms are ſuch, as to leave nothing with me but acquieſcence, and I am anſwerable for that only. In the caſe of Mr. Fowke, the words are moſt particularly and ſtrongly pointed, viz. "That their reaſon "for his re-inſtatement is to vindicate the authority of the "Court of Directors."—After this declaration, I cannot think any alternative is left me; I therefore give it as my opinion, that the orders of the Court of Directors are to be carried into execution.

(Signed) EYRE COOTE.

Digitized by Google

Governor General,

Since it is finally resolved, by the opinions which have been delivered by the members of the Board, that Mr. F. Fowke, shall be appointed Resident at Benares, it becomes me, and me peculiarly, to propose, that he be appointed with all the powers of his predecessor in that office, which I beg leave to recommend to the Board accordingly.

Resolved, That a Khelaut be given by Mr. Fowke to Baboo Juggerdeo Sing, the new Naib or manager, in the name of the government, and with a promise of its patronage and support so long as he conducts himself properly, in order to confirm his authority in the country.

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 24th March 1783.

The following instructions to Mr. Francis Fowke are approved, and ordered to be sent to him.

To Mr. Fracis Fowke.

Having appointed you to the station of Resident at Benares, we think it necessary to furnish you with the following instructions for your guidance in this trust.

Mr. Markham, the late Resident, has been ordered to deliver over to your charge, on your arrival at Benares, all the treasure, papers, accounts, and other documents, or dependencies of his office. By these you will learn the state of Rajah Mahipnarain's Kistbundel, for the present year, and you will continue to demand and receive from him, or his Naib Juggerdoer Sing, the monthly installments which may become due according to his Kubbooleat or agreement, a copy of which, together with the Pottah granted him for the Zemindarry, and his general Kisbundees, as settled by the Governor General at Benares, on the 14th September 1781, are enclosed.

Baboo Doorbejy Sing, the late Naib, having been guilty of gross mismanagement, and peculation of the revenues, was removed, and confined for payment of the amount due to the Company, which he had collected, and at the same time deprived of his Jagheir, which was ordered to be reunited to the Mulguzang of the land paying revenue through the Raja to the Company. Mr. Markham will give you the state of this account, and you will use your endeavours to recover the whole from him as soon as possible.

Babboo Juggerdeco Sing, who, with our approbation and confirmation, has been appointed Naib in the place of Doorbijy Sing, will in future be accountable for the rents of the Zemindarry, agreeably to Kistbundy; and you will treat with

Digitized by Google

with him in that character upon all subjects which may be committed to you respecting the Zemindarry.

We directed Mr. Markham, on the 4th of December last, to invest the new Naib with a Khelaut in due form, on the part of this government, and to carry into execution certain orders and instructions given by the Governor General on the 29th September preceding. We enclose a copy of them, and desire that such points as remain unexecuted by Mr. Markham may receive your earliest attention and accomplishment of them. At all events, we think it proper, for the confirmation of the Naib, and to prevent any ill effects which the appearance of a change might have on his influence, that you should invest him with a Khelaut in the name of the Governor General, and we direct it accordingly.

We enclose copy of a paper of requests delivered by Rajah Mahipnarain to the Governor General while at Benares, with his replies thereto; by which you will perceive, that it was intended to deprive the new Rajah of every prerogative which denoted either Sovereignty, or independence of the Company, for which reason the mint and the administration of justice were both separated from the Zemindarry. The former was given in charge to the late Resident, with directions to ascertain the amount of the annual revenue paid from it to Rajah Cheyt Sing during the preceding five years, that the average thereof might be carried to the credit of the present Rajah, in the payments of his revenues to government; and the Resident was ordered to erect the proper offices for the function of mint, and to continue the services of it until some future arrangement should be made respecting it. This office you will receive charge of from Mr. Markham, and likewise to execute the duties of it.

The administration of justice in the town of Benares, and the internal police of it, are separately committed to Ally Abrahim Cawn, with whose province you are forbid all interference, except in instances requiring your protection and support of his authority: And that it may be clearly defined to you what his duties are, we enclose a copy of the regulations made by the Governor General for administering them.

You will follow the example of the former Resident, in making such advances of money for the payment of the troops at Chunar and Buxar as may be requisite; and in all payments of this kind, you will observe the rules prescribed by us in special letters written to Mr. Markham for that purpose.

The Governor General having made a regulation before he left Benares, concerning the future collection of the customs, and ordered that no duties should be levied in any

part

Digitized by Google

part of the Zemindarry, except at the stations of Myzapore, Benares, and Ghazypore, you will find a table of rates established by the late Resident, and corrected by us on the 8h April last for that purpose.

For the rest, you will receive such information from the late Resident, as will leave you at a certainty, whether any, and what duties remain to be performed in that station, and will attend to them accordingly.

You will keep us constantly advised of your proceedings, and of every occurrence you may think worthy of our information.

Fort William, We are, &c. &c.
24th March 1783.

Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations, the 24th March 1783

The Governor General desires to record the following letters, which he has received from Major William Palmer.

Sir,

I have at length come to a final agreement with Fyzoola Cawn, for the remission of the military aid, which he is bound to furnish the Vizier. This is the only proposition upon which he was willing to treat; and I am well pleased to have escaped the dangers of so important a negociation as that of ceding the Vizier's Sovereignty and property in this valuable Jagheer. I am at a loss to conjecture what can be Fyzoola Cawn's real motives for declining an acquisition of such magnitude. The reason he has assigned to me I cannot credit—it is an inability to advance the Paishcush. I demanded only thirty lacks for this important cession, in which every other would have been included, and he has given fifteen for the single one above-mentioned. I look back with self-congratulation on my offer having been rejected. I should have incurred much censure and suspicion if he had accepted it, from those who do not know the real state of things, and the liberal principles upon which your Board recommended the cession. There are no precedents in the ancient usages of the country, for ascertaining the Nuzzerana or Peishcush of grants of this nature, they were bestowed by the Prince as rewards of favours; and the accustomary presents in return were adopted to the dignity of the donor, rather than the value of the gift, to which it never, I believe, bore any kind of proportion. In my demand, I endeavoured to reconcile this practice with the object which the Board had in view, of some indemnification to the Vizier; and when you know that the chief claim, upon which it was supposed the Vizier had a right to compensation, was not formed, I am

Digitized by Google

am persuaded that you will approve my conduct; I mean the advantages which it was alledged Fyzoola Cawn had derived from the labours of the Vizier's ryats. I believe I have already informed you, that he has proved to me the error of this supposition, by producing receipts of various dates, and for great numbers of those people, surrendered upon requisition from the Vizier's officers. I trouble you with this vindication, lest it should be insinuated, that I had an intention to sacrifice the Vizier's interest, but only wanted opportunity to carry it into execution; and besides, I think it as indispensable to you for my intentions as for my actions.

The sum which I have accepted for relinquishing the stipulated aid will, I think, be thought an ample equivalent for such precarious service. I think myself that I have made an excellent bargain for the Vizier; and, at the same time, I believe Fyzoola Cawn is perfectly satisfied, since I have spent a month, in order to effect by agreement and persuasion what I could have obtained in an hour by threats and compulsions.

The money is to be paid by the following installments; five lacks in specie, to be delivered to me upon signing the release; five lacks at the commencement of the next Kuriof harvest; two lacks at the following Rubby; and the remaining three lacks at the Kuriof ensuing.

The specie is Barelly rupees of uncertain value, because fluctuating at Lucknow, at this time 10 or 11 per cent. below the Reccarys of that place. I could not obtain better, and I believe that no person not known to possess your confidence and support, in the degree that I am supposed to do, would have obtained nearly so good terms: Fyzoola Cawn has invariably refused at the Vizier's durbar more than five lacks for this very condition.

I expected to have set out on my return this day; but the shroffing the money, and providing carriage for it, proves very tedious.

I have taken from Fyzoola Cawn an engagement to afford no asylum to the Vizier's ryotts.

I cannot concluded this letter, without once more recommending to your notice the indefatigable attention, the extraordinary abilities, and incorruptible integrity, of Jehfusal Hussein Cawn. He is to you an invaluable servant, and I sincerely wish he was employed where he might perform more essential service.

Rampoor, I am with respect, &c.
17th Febry. 1783. (Signed) Wm. PALMER.

Extract

Digitized by Google

Extract of Secret Letter from Bengal, dated 5th April 1783.

Par. 54. In the short letter, which we dispatched to you over land, we mentioned the issue of the Vizier's negociation with the Nabob Fyzoola Cawn, through the agency of Major Palmer: We shall now be more particular on this subject. The above Nabob, after the conquest of the Rohilla country by the late Vizier, was allowed by treaty a Jagheer of the district of Rampore, estimated at 15 lacks of rupees a year, and restricted in military force to the complement of 5,000 troops; to which was added a clause, that he should send 2 or 3,000 men to join the Vizier's force, or attend in person, in case it should be requisite. The late Vizier died very soon after the date of this treaty, and the present Vizier, his successor, never having derived any benefit from the stipulation for military aid, which, whenever required, was as often refused or evaded, the stipulation in fact became a nullity.

55. Frequent reports had been made to the Vizier to the prejudice of Fyzoola Cawn's fidelity. He was said to have enriched his Zemindarry by the seduction of the Vizier's tenants from the adjacant countries; and with the wealth he had accumulated, to be encreasing his military forces, in order to make himself independent. The late Resident and his deputy wrote us very alarming accounts of their suspicions of Fyzoolla Cawn's designs, from the dangerous intrigues which he was said to be carrying on with the neighbouring chiefs, for the invasion of the Vizier's dominions. They even applied to us for the detachment of a considerable military force to assist the Vizier in reducing him to obedience.

56. From the numerous enemies which we had to oppose at that time, we thought it would be highly imprudent to encrease the number of our foes; and recommended a friendly and conciliatory conduct towards Fyzoola Cawn, unless he should be found in open rebellion, until our affairs should be in a better state to warrant forcible means, if they should be necessary.

57. On the appointment of Mr. Bristow to Lucknow, he was specially instructed to endeavour to ascertain the real situation and intentions of Fyzoola Cawn; and by a cautious, but from an effectual interposition, to explain the disputed clauses of the treaty, and to open a negociation with him, for the purpose of reducing his dependance on the Vizier's government to such specific conditions as might prevent any future disagreements between them.

58. The Vizier conceiving it proper to depute an English gentleman to Fyzoola Cawn for this purpose, and Major Palmer happening at that time to be at Lucknow, he was

Digitized by Google

was accordingly appointed, with instructions from the Resident, given under the Vizier's authority.

59. As the tenor of these instructions left Major Palmer at liberty to open the negociation or not, as he should find Fyzoola Cawn disposed to receive him, and appeared to us to be too indefinite to produce any immediate effect, we wrote a letter to the Resident, directing him to reduce them to the three following points:

1st. To offer to relinquish the Vizier's claim to the military aid which he was entitled to by treaty, and to require a compensation in money in lieu of it.

2dly. To require that the Vizier's tenants, who had taken protection in Fyzoola Cawn's Jagheer, should be restored to the lands of their proper Sovereign. And,

3dly. To offer, for a proper consideration in money, to change Fyzoola Cawn's Jagheer, which is a tenure for life, into an altum, which descends to successors.

60. The purport of our letter was immediately communicated by Mr. Bristow to Major Palmer, but did not reach him till his negociation was nearly concluded. He had been well received by Fyzoola Cawn, who strenuously denied every infringement of the treaty which had been laid to his charge, but acquiesced in opinion, that the stipulation for military aid, contained in the treaty, was subject to misconstruction, and would constantly produce misunderstanding and inconveniencies with the Vizier. He therefore declared his readiness to give a compensation in lieu of it, but his offer did not exceed 5 lacks of rupees. Major Palmer demanded 20 lacks; and after many tedious and difficult discussions, settled the terms at 15 lacks, 5 of which were to be paid immediately, and the remainder in three installments, at the seasons of the harvests; and a treaty has accordingly been executed, which also precludes Fyzoola Cawn from granting refuge to the Vizier's tenants, and consequently includes our second proposition; but in order to confute the allegation upon which it was founded Fyzoola Cawn produced to Major Palmer receipts of various dates from the Vizier's officers, for a great number of tenants delivered up to them, upon their requisitions. With respect to the third article, Fyzoola Cawn was wholly unwilling to treat upon it, declaring his inability to advance the additional compensation required, Major Palmer having fixed the sum of 30 lacks of rupees for the whole.

61. We cannot conceive what could have been Fyzoola Cawn's real motive for rejecting an offer which must appear to every one to be so valuable for an old man—the confirmation of a rich inheritance to his son; but we are full as well pleased that he did not accept of it. Upon the whole, we

Digitized by Google

we conceive that the Vizier has obtained a very ample equivalent for relinquiſhing his claim to a precarious and unſerviceable right; and we muſt add our ſatisfaction that the affair has terminated in this manner, becauſe, in your letter of the 12th July 1782, paragraph 62 you expreſs ſome apprehenſion for the event of the requiſition made from him for his quota of troops; and proceed to intimate your wiſh rather to be conſidered as the guardians of the honour and proſperity of the native powers in India, than as the inſtruments of oppreſſion; and hope and and truſt, that no hoſtile ſteps have been taken againſt that Rohilla chief.

62. Before we quit this ſubject, we think it neceſſary to add, that Major Palmer, on his arrival with Fyzoola Cawn, found that the rumours which had been ſpread of his hoſtile deſigns againſt the Vizier were totally groundleſs; and that if he had been inclined, he had not the means to make himſelf formidable; on the contrary, being in the decline of life, and poſſeſſing a very fertile and and proſperous Jagheer, it is more natural to ſuppoſe that Fyzoola Cawn wiſhes to ſpend the remainder of his days in peace and quietneſs, than that he is preparing to embark in an active and offenſive ſcene, which muſt end in his own deſtruction.

63. In the arrangement this fortunately concluded with Fyzoola Cawn, we have adopted the ideas which we ſtated to you in the 25th paragraph of our letter, in the ſecret department, of the 14th October 1781; and ſuch are the meaſures which we ſhall ever wiſh to obſerve towards our allies or dependants upon our frontiers.

Extract of the Secret Proceedings of the Honourable the Governor General and Council; dated 21 April 1783.

Governor General lays before the Board the accomanying letters and papers received from the Nabob Vizier and his miniſter Hyder Beg Cawn, and containing various complaints and charges againſt Mr. Briſtow, for acts ſaid to be done by him in his official character, ſince his laſt appointment of miniſter at the Court of Lucknow, and grounded on the inſtructions given to him by the Board, through the Governor General.

The Governor General deſires the Board to conſider the delicate ſituation in which he ſtands, both with reſpect to the Nabob Vizier and Mr. Briſtow, and which they well know to be particularly diſtreſſing on an occaſion of this nature.

He wiſhes for this reaſon to follow the line which they may preſcribe, rather than recommend what, in his judgment, may be requiſite to the ſeveral points offered to their deliberations

Digitized by Google

deliberations in these papers; and shall wait for their opinion upon them, before he delivers his own, if the Board, in relief to him, will admit of this mode for the discussion of the general subject.

The Governor General desires that his instructions given to Mr. Bristow, which were read to the members of the Board, and minuted in consultation on the 24th October last, may be now entered and prefixed to the accompanying letters.

A true Extract.
E. HAY,
Acting Secy. to the Secret Dept.

From the Nurraub Vizier to the Honourable the Governor General: Received March 28th, 1783.

Usual Introduction.

From the commencement of the friendship between the late Nurraub and you the gentlemen of the Council, on this side there has been no deficiency. In consequence of the interchange of turbans between you and the late Nurraub, I look up to you as the brother of my father; my country and my dwelling are yours. I have, on all occasions, studied your pleasure, and the satisfaction of the gentlemen of the Council; you on your part have still acted in a manner corresponding with the duties of friendship and affection, and I feel and acknowledge the obligation.

The disposition and conduct of Mr. Bristow were formerly known to you. You lately wrote to me that, having included him in the number of your chosen and select friends, you had sent him here; and Major Palmer, agreeably to instructions from you, returned from Cawnpore to Lucknow to advise and encourage me; this he did, recommending attention and regard to the inclination and satisfaction of Mr. Bristow.

Mr. Bristow at his first interview assumed the disguise of affability and kindness. His first proposal was, that I should intrust him with the management of my household: If I would, he said, he would conduct the business of that department in such a manner as should give me infinite satisfaction. I replied, that for the interest of the Company's Surcor, he had full public powers; and that I approved of them, from my heart, as the means of confirming and strengthening the friendship between the Company and me; and that I would comply with every thing he might propose for the benefit of the Company's Surcor; but that in my household concerns there was not any thing of such importance as to render it necessary to trouble him.

In a few days he assumed a line of conduct correspondent to his disposition: to attempt a particular and minute account

of

Digitized by Google

of it, would be vain and fruitleſs. Not one circumſtance which could be productive of indignity, contempt, or the annihilation of my authority, has he left unperformed. Shoccahs, reſpecting the regiments and other matters, he has cauſed to be written, through Hyder Beg Khawn, without my knowledge. He has ſent a Suzzauwul to Furrukhabad contrary to my inclinations, and is preparing to ſend Suzzauwuls to other places. He has ſtrictly forbade my miniſters from writing to you on the ſtate of things; declaring, that if any one preſumed to write a ſingle circumſtance of the tranſactions here to Calcutta, he would call him to a ſevere account. He ſent a meſſage to me directing me to appoint a Treaſurer and Comptroller of his chooſing; that the monies from the Mahalauts aſſigned for the expences of my houſehold eſtabliſhments and domeſtics ſhould be paid in to the above-mentioned Treaſurer and Comptroller, and kept in a ſeparate houſe allotted for that purpoſe; that people ſent by him ſhould be ſtationed there for its protection; and that what was neceſſary ſhould be expended with his knowledge, and under his direction.

I replied, that every one throughout the whole empire, from the higheſt to the loweſt, had the direction of his own houſehold eſtabliſhments and domeſtics; and deſired to know whether he would deprive me of that authority alſo. He anſwered, that ſuch were the orders of the gentlemen of the council, and he would execute them. I repreſented to him in the moſt earneſt and forcible terms, by meſſage, that this meaſure could be of no benefit to him, but that it would cover me with indignity and diſhonour in the eyes of all mankind; that it would be ſaid, the Nurraub Vizier was ſo compleatly diveſted of all power and authority, that, by the appointment of a Treaſurer and Comptroller, he had no longer any command over his houſehold eſtabliſhments and domeſtic ſervants. This meſſage had no effect; he came to viſit me, and aſked why I entertained apprehenſions from the appointment of a Treaſurer and Comptroller? That he propoſed it with a view to the regulation of my affairs. He had ſaid, at firſt, that neither he nor Hyder Beg ſhould have any concern in the appointments of the Treaſurer and Comptroller, but that I ſhould appoint whom I thought proper; I replied, that the appointments of Treaſurer and Comptroller to my houſehold would be a diſgrace to me. After that he propoſed that I myſelf ſhould take upon me the managemenr of *all* my affairs, and that the miniſters ſhould be diſmiſſed. As I knew that this propoſal for this diſmiſſion of the miniſters was made with a ſecret view to the full eſtabliſhment of his own authority—in order to ſound his intentions, I obſerved, that in the time of Mokhtaur u Dowleh ſimilar converſations had paſſed between us, and

Digitized by Google

and that when I wanted to do it he himself protected him; he replied, that I might now do whatever I thought proper with respect to the ministers; that he would give it under his hand and seal, that they should not receive protection either from him, or from the gentlemen of the Council. I said, that the ministers had hitherto committed no crime worthy of dismission, but that I wished he would give up the intended appointments of Comptroller and Treasurer; he replied, that he had orders to that purport, and that it was not in his power.—Here the conversation ended, and he retired.

Again he repeated his message for the appointment of the Treasurer and Comptroller. I said, in answer, that the Jagiers of my parents, my relations, my friends, and my officers, were all sequestered; that they had no means of subsistence; and that it was my wish to admit them all to a participation in the little which remained to me, but that he would not permit even that; that he threw a cord about my neck to prevent my eating my morsel in ease and comfort; that the miseries of my friends, relations, and jagierders, filled me with the deepest distress—to *that* he added these disquietudes; and entreated him, for God's sake, to leave me at rest.

He again visited me in person, saying, "I desire you to appoint a Treasurer and Comptroller; your Highness refuses to acquiesce. To-day I tell you plainly, that my orders are peremptory; that whether you may be pleased or displeased, I will, at all events, appoint a Comptroller and a Treasurer—will call in the money from the Janidauds—and will issue it under my own authority, for the expences of your household." I replied, "In whatever you may propose for the benefit of the Company's Surcar, I am ready to acquiesce; but to an arrangement of my household, so disgraceful and pernicious, I also will never agree; I will not consent to be deprived of my proper authority, and to receive from your hand the subsistence for my domestic servants, and the animals of my household. If your orders are peremptory, give to me a copy of the orders of the gentlemen of the Council; my seal is forth-coming, I will send it to you, and you may do by violence whatever you may think proper. I will shut up the doors of my house, there I will sit, and seclude myself from all society." He replied, it was well; he would give me a written copy of the orders from the gentlemen of the Council; I might send my seal;—he would, at all events, execute the measure, He then rose, and retired.

For two days repeatedly I sent my seal to him by the Moulurri, that he might do whatever he thought proper; and then he said, that if I would not affix my seal volunta-

 rily,

Digitized by Google

rily, my ſeal was unneceſſary; he would ſend letters under his own ſeal, and would himſelf appoint a Treaſurer. To which I returned no anſwer. Accordingly, the Tunkhaw monies which came in he delivered to Mr. Cooper, and Mr. Cooper appointed a man named Dechait to the office of Treaſurer.

Whatever he chooſes to have written to any one, he cauſes drafts of the Shuccahs to be made out by his own Moonſhee, and ſends them by Sheikh Shuffee Ullah; Sheikh Shuffee Ullah's Khidmutgar cauſes them to be written by my Moonſhee, and having cauſed my ſeal alſo to be affixed to them, carries them away. Hence you may form a judgement of the extent of my authority, and of that of my miniſters.

He brought forward and carried into execution a reduction of the troops, and that too without conſulting me, even as common Sura-reſhtehdar. He threatens my miniſters, telling them to act as he directs, otherwiſe he will cauſe them to be turned out of their offices. The Miniſters, influenced by the terror of this menace, obey him; and *this* he conſtrues into the management of affairs with the advice and approbation of the miniſters of my Surcar.

The whole city, and many of the gentlemen here, are acquainted with the indignities I ſuffer. My ſituation, my friend, although I am every way devoted to your pleaſure, is wretched beyond meaſure. My friends and my relations, the Jagierdars and the officers of my government, are ſtarving; by inquiry inform yourſelf of the actual ſituation of theſe people. Such is my own condition, that Mr. Briſtow throttles me, as it were, in order to force the morſel from my mouth.

I am made wretched to extreme by this conduct of Mr. Briſtow. If you will give me leave, and write to me to that purport, I will come to you. Allow me not to be rendered contemptible in this country, where we have lived for three generations, in honour and proſperity. I will come to you, and I will make no complaints; either do this, or deliver me from the hands of this man. I am devoted to your pleaſure, I will not object to any thing; whatever you may direct, agreeably to that I will act. If you are ſolicitous to promote my proſperity, confer upon me diſcretional power over my country, and for the payment of the monies to the Company. By heaping theſe miſeries and indignities upon me, Mr. Briſtow has engaged for the payment of certain ſums. After obtaining a perfect knowledge of my ſituation, whatever may be the mode on which you ſhall determine, be pleaſed to inform me thereof, and I will cauſe the monies to be paid to you through the hands of my miniſters. If any deficiency or default of payment ſhall ariſe, do on the inſtant

Digitized by Google

instant whatever you shall think proper. In freeing me from these indignities you will procure a lasting reputation to yourself. Concludes as usual.

P. S. In the Nurraub Vizier's own hand.

My distresses and unhappiness, my friend, exceed all bounds. This is the time for kindness and generous affection.—I entreat that I may either obtain my request, or that you will call me to you.

A true Copy of the Transl.

E. HAY,

Act. Sec. to the Secret Dep.

From the Nurvaub Vizier to the honourable the Governor General: Received April 7th 1783.

Usual Introduction.

I have already informed you fully of the persecutions and indignities which I have suffered from the hands of Mr. Bristow. The contumely and deprivation of authority which I experience at his hands is redoubled daily. I am every way disposed to fulfil your pleasure. The payment of the Company's demands I consider as an object superior to all others, and wish to discharge them in preference to every other appropriation.

I entreat you by enquiry to make yourself acquainted with the conduct of Mr. Bristow. The measures on which he has determined, and which he is carrying into execution cannot, I am certain, correspond with your sentiments and intentions towards me, or with those of the gentlemen of the council.

He declares, that the government of this country is his by right, for he has brought orders or authority from Europe; that he will take the entire management of it into his own hands, and with his own hand give what is to be given. It is his intention to reduce me to the state of a servant, dependant upon him. I am oppressed to the last extremity, and my life is become a burthen to me.

I am ready and willing to pay the Company's monies. I entreat, as a favour, that you will recall Mr. Bristow and Mr. Cooper, and permit me the exercise of discretional power for the management of my country, and the payment of the Company's monies. I will cause payment of those monies to be made through the hands of my ministers, in the manner hereafter mentioned.

That is to say:—Whereas Mr. Bristow has declined taking bills from the Mahajins, for the balance of teep for 26 lack given by them; and has taken the Jauidauds assigned to those Mahajins into his own hands, and declared that he himself will collect the amount, and remit it to the Company's treasury; the truth of which you may ascertain from the Mahajins who have given teep, and who

Digitized by Google

declare themselves ready to grant bills for the same, if put in possession of the Jauidauds originally assigned to them. When your orders, establishing the authority for the management of my country, and the payment of the monies, shall arrive, and Mr. Bristow and Mr. Cooper be recalled from hence, I will procure bills to be granted by those Mahajins to the amount of the balance of the teep, and transmit them to you; and whatever sums may remain due on the bills for 26 lacks granted by Gopaul Daus Sahoo, from whom Mr. Bristow has taken by violence my minister's Tumulussook, and substituted his own in the place thereof—I will take back Mr. Bristow's Tumussook from the Gomaushtehs of the aforementioned Sahoo, and cause it to be returned to Mr. Bristow; and for what shall remain due to the said Sahoo, I will cause such good and substantial securities to be given to his said Gomaushtehs on the spot, that no cause for suspicion or doubt shall remain. And with respect to the present year Fussulli 1190, and the Jauidauds for the Company's money settled and received by Mr. Bristow, and for the amount of which he has taken Tummussooks from the Aumils of the said Jauidauds, let him be directed to deliver up the Tummussooks of the said Aumils to me, and whatever sums may remain due from the said Jauidauds, and payable by the said Aumils, the same shall be remitted to you in bills Kist by Kist, by my ministers; and whatever sums you shall direct to be paid here from the amount thereof, for the use of the Company's troops, the same shall be paid here monthly to the commanding officer of those troops. And for the ensuing year 1191 Fussulli, whatever plan or mode you shall please to dictate and determine, that plan or mode, on your informing me thereof, shall be received and strictly followed. I will not object to or hesitate to fulfil your pleasure in any respect whatever, if you will please, as a mark of your friendship, to recall Mr. Bristow and Mr. Cooper, and confer upon me discretional authority for the management of my country, and for the payment of the Company's monies; with God's assistance, I will cause those monies to be furnished and remitted by my ministers, agreeably to what I have written. If any defect or deficiency shall happen, you will, on the instant, take whatever measures you shall think proper.

Concludes as usual.

In the Nurvaub Vizier's own Hand.

I hope, my friend, from your kindness, that I shall be delivered from these distresses, and obtain my request.

A true Copy of the Translation.

E. HAY,

Actg. Sec. to the Secret Dept.

Digitized by Google

From

From Hyder Beg Khan to the honourable the Governor General: Recd. April 7th 1783.

Usual Introduction.

I formerly represented to you the particulars of the persecutions exercised towards his Highness by Mr. Bristow, and the unhappiness and distress of mind under which his Highness laboured.—A repetition of the same circumstances must also have reached your ears through other channels; inasmuch as they have come to pass in so public a manner as to be known almost to every body.

Relying on your goodness, his Highness has requested the removal of Mr. Bristow, and the grant of discretional authority to him in the management of his country: And for the payment of the Company's monies, if you should be graciously disposed to comply with his request, and at the same time so far to favour me as to appoint me from yourself to the management of affairs here, agreeably to the proposals here made to you by his Highness, both respecting the sums remaining due on the teep, and on Mahajun's bills, and with regard to the present year 1190 Fusily, and for the ensuing year Fusily 1191, in any manner you shall please to direct, I will engage, in obedience to your orders, to remit the same to you Kist by Kist, in bills; and as much thereof as shall be necessary for the payment of the Company's troops in this quarter, so much, on receipt of your orders, I will pay on the spot to such commanding officer of troops as you shall please to direct. As I was originally raised from your hand, and am debtor to you for the rank and reputation, so now also, aided by your favour and protection, by your patronage and support, I shall be enabled to effect these objects. If you shall please to honour me with this appointment, as your particular and immediate dependant, with God's assistance I will not be deficient in conducting the affairs of the Company's Sircar, or in obedience to your commands.

Concludes as usual.

Ordered, That these papers lie for consideration.

Ordered, That all the letters from the Vizier and Hyder Beg Khan regarding Mr. Bristow, since his last appointment, be laid before the Board.

From Hyder Beg Khan to the Honourable the Governor General: Received March 28th 1783.

Usual introduction.

At the beginning I was raised by the hand of your favour, and from that period to the present, you have uniformly protected my honour, and by your countenance conferred

respectability upon me. Assisted by such patronage and support, and deeming my fidelity and attachment to the Company, and to the Nuvvaub Vizier, as duties which admitted of no distinction or separation, I have, as is well known to you, unremittingly persevered in exerting my services for the benefit of both Surcars.

At this period, and for some time past, various circumstances and events have come to pass, which in consequence of strict injunctions, that no one shall presume to inform you of the state of affairs here, my apprehensions have hitherto deterred me from communicating; hoping at the same time, that you might learn them from public report, and that the necessary remedies would be applied; or that Mr. Bristow would himself adopt more favourable dispositions.—As neither of these events has happened; I see no remedy or expedient whatevr, except in a representation to you of all that has passed; and am therefore necessitated to make this communication.

In consequence of the receipt of your frequent and iterated informations and declarations, both to his Highness and to me, by letters immediately from yourself, and also through the medium of Major Palmer, who returning from Cawnpoor did personally, at various interviews, and repeatedly through the medium of others, communicate your sentiments respecting obedience to the desire, and attention to the satisfaction of Mr. Bristow; declaring that in the firmest reliance on his conduct, you had vested him with ample powers in the arrangement and regulation of the Nuvvaub's affairs, and as your chosen and selected friend had appointed him to the execution of this office; that we should not deviate in the minutest degree from his directions, or in the smallest point neglect or disregard his pleasure; and that we should pay the same attention to his satisfaction as we would to yours. In consequence of the foregoing, as his Highness and myself regard an implicit respect and obedience to your advice and directions as the first and only objects of our attention, therefore, agreeably to your commands communicated by letter, and by Major Palmer, I have in every particular obeyed the directions of Mr. Bristow, from the hour of his arrival down to the present moment.

Papers which he demanded I have delivered, contrary to the pleasure of the Vizier; in no point whatever have I been deficient in obedience and submission. Whatever he has directed, on whatever subject, I have considered a compliance with his directions as obedience to your commands, and, without difficulty or hesitation have fulfilled them. Volumes would be insufficient to contain the particulars on this ground, to relate them circumstantially is therefore

therefore impracticable; and you must already be well and fully informed on the subject, as many of the gentlemen residing here are perfectly acquainted with most of the circumstances. Notwithstanding this entire and implicit obedience and attendance on his will, every mark of attention, and every instance of support, which you, in your solicitude for the happiness and well-being of his Highness, and from your regard for the honour and respectability of his Ministers, have always and uniformly shewn, which the gentlemen heretofore appointed to this office, in obedience to your pleasure, were wont to exhibit, have been totally neglected and disregarded by Mr. Bristow, The first order that he gave on his arrival was, that I should deliver up my papers to him. He examined them, and after an interval of some days, declared that he was to take all the affairs of this country, all the officers, household establishments, &c. and all the troops of his Highness, under his own immediate management, and make the disbursements to each with his own hand; that as the military expences, those of the household, of the Jageerders and Tunkharders of the Sircar, appeared to be very considerable, an addition to the ways and means should be wanting, and therefore I must give 25 lacks of Rupees from my own private property, to enable him to pay the troops, the household establishments, Jaghadeers, &c. I represented to him, that from the moderate Russoom granted and confirmed to us, under the Sign Manual of his Highness, I had annually advanced more or less to the Nuvvaub Vizier, in proportion to his necessities; and that what remained had been disbursed in defraying my own necessary expences; that the accounts respecting the Russoom, from my first appointment to the Neabut, were forthcoming, which he might examine. He replied, that accounts were useless; that I had accumulated great wealth; if I would give the sum he had mentioned it was well, if not he would, by a change in the office of Neabut, find means to procure the money. I asked him, whether the money could be procured by making that change? He replied in the affirmative; and I retired from his presence.

By one of his friends I afterwards sent him the following message:—That the Neabut, and the respectability which I possessed, were the gifts of the Governor General; that his Highness, with his usual benevolence towards his servants, had shewn me favour; and that to the present time I had not been wanting or deficient in my duty to either Surcor; that as he, Mr. Bristow, had been induced, at the instigations of my enemies, to make the preceding declarations, if he was really and positively determined, in consequence of such advice, to dismiss me from my office, it was well, I would retire with my family to Calcutta. His

Digitized by Google

friend replied by message, that what he, Mr. Bristow, had said, had proceeded from the impulse of a violent temper, worked upon by the advice of several mischievously-disposed persons; and that it would in the end subside. I returned for answer, that I would wait upon Mr. Bristow the next day, and never quit him, day or night, until I had succeeded in removing the idea which he entertained respecting my wealth. With this intention I waited upon him on the following morning: what conversation had passed between him and his friend I know not; but immediately on my arrival at his house, he sent me a message, adjuring me to lay aside all appearances of anger, as inconsistent and improper; and proposing that we should meet, and confer together upon affairs as usual.

Deeming it in every respect necessary to obey, I conducted myself as he had desired; and, without entering upon the subject, delivered to him the accounts, written at large, of the receipts of Russoom for the last six years; observing that the country and the Aumils, both those in and those out of employment, were forth-coming, and that he might oppose and compare these with their accounts. He replied, that at all events money must be raised. I answered, that I should not have been backward, if the means had been in my possession.

After the preceding affair, he brought forward the business respecting the stationing of the regiments, saying, that I must procure a Shoccah to be written by his Highness on that subject. I observed, that it would be necessary to communicate the matter to the Nuvvaub Vizier, and obtain his consent. At first he agreed, and said, he would speak to his Highness on that subject. After some days employed in conferences on this business, deeming it improper to mention it to the Nuvvaub, he told me that it was altogether unnecessary; complained at the same time, that on all occasions I was wont to introduce the name of the Vizier, demanding my reasons for so doing. I replied, that every measure which was carried into execution without the Vizier's knowledge must ultimately draw the displeasure of both parties upon me. He asserted the contrary, saying, he had it in command from the Governor General and gentlemen of the Council, to act as he should deem proper, without waiting to inform the Nuvvaub, or allowing his measures to depend on his Highness's pleasure or displeasure, and ordered me to cause the Shuccahs to be written.

As I consider his Highness's well-being and prosperity to be promoted by my attachment to the Company, and esteeming it a duty, in obedience to your commands, to obey Mr. Bristow, I thought it improper to say any thing further to him on the subject; and therefore I did as he had directed,

Digitized by Google

ed, and without the Vizier's knowledge caused the Shoccah to be written, and delivered it to Mr. Bristow. In the same manner, from the apprehension of suffering disgrace, I was induced to write and deliver to him, by his orders, several other Shoccahs, without his Highness's knowledge. At length the Vizier obtained information of these particulars, and I fell under his displeasure. Still considering my duty to the Company's Surcar and my duty to his Highness as inseparable from each other, and looking up to you for favour and protection, I continued to exert myself as usual.

The preceding was followed by an order from Mr. Bristow, to make out and deliver to him an account of the expences of the Nuvvaub's kitchen, horses, elephants, camels, &c. &c. I represented that he had never, during his former residency, demanded these papers, nor had they ever been demanded by either of the gentlemen who succeeded him; and if I should now presume to deliver them without his Highness's consent, he would certainly resent it. To which Mr. Bristow replied, In every business you still introduce the name of his Highness—it will not be well for you; I have orders to take possession of all papers. Without remedy I delivered to him the accounts above-mentioned. He then demaded the military accounts; and those also I delivered. This was followed by an order to write, and send to him, muster rolls of the troops, both the Mootaiya-neh and those attending the presence. I represented to him, that he had already taken from me the whole of the national accounts; that a full statement of the Mootaiya-neh was included therein. He replied, that I must write and deliver separate muster rolls of the troops to him. I requested a respite of a few days for this purpose. He answered, No—that would be improper; that the Mootasudees must be sent to his house, and write there. Accordingly, he gave orders to Mr. Cooper to send them there, and there they continued, in the style of prisoners, writing from sun-rise 'till nine at night, for the space of seven or eight days. When the register or muster roll was finished, Mr. Bristow ordered four thousand horse and seven thousand foot of the Mootaiyaneh to be discharged; saying, that if the Aumils should have occasion for more troops, he had sent for fifteen thousand stand of arms from Calcutta—he would raise Sepoys; and in lieu of the troops dismissed, he would send those Sepoys entertained by himself to the Aumils. I replied, that he was master, and possessed of supreme power—he was to act as he thought proper. Some time after he told me, that the arms which he had sent for from Calcutta were not arrived; that at the commencement of the year he should set on foot an establishment here for the repairing and making of arms, and raise troops, as he had said before. It was now

Digitized by Google

now become necessary for me to approve and acquiesce, with entire submission, in every thing which he was pleased to say or direct.

Mr. Bristow now declared, That a Treasurer and Comptroller must be appointed to the Nuvvaub's household. This measure he at first proposed to his Highness through the medium of other persons: at last he himself visited the Nuvvaub, and on this occasion communicated to his Highness certain arrangements, implying advice, or proposals for my utter expulsion from office. To which the Nuvvaub replied, "On a former occasion I was prevailed upon by your counsels to adopt a conduct similar to that which you now recommend towards Mochtaur-u-Dowleh, and afterwards you yourself stood forth to aid and protect him—What are your real intentions now?" Mr. Bristow replied, that his Highness might set his heart at ease with respect to him; that he would be a surety, and would give an engagement in writing, under his seal, that on this occasion no protection or assistance should be afforded to his Highness's ministers on the part of the English; that his Highness, in changing the said ministers, and substituting others, might take whatever steps he thought proper.

As the Nuvvaub did not acquiesce in this measure, but on the contrary made objections to the appointments of Treasurer and Comptroller, Mr. Bristow applied to and directed me to prevail upon his Highness to make those appointments. Agreeably to his orders, I waited upon and made the necessary representations to the Nuvvaub, who in reply said, "Mr. Bristow, the day before yesterday, declared to me, that Hyder Beg Khawn should have nothing to do in these affairs—after what manner was it possible for him to communicate this message to you?" I answered, that, except by the directions of Mr. Bristow, I could not have brought the message. His Highness commanded me to return to Mr. Bristow, and to represent to him, in terms the most forcible, that he (Mr. Bristow) could obtain no benefit by the appointments of Treasurer and Comptroller; but that those appointments would reflect disgrace and contempt upon his Highness, since it would become apparent that the Vizier possessed no authority whatever, even over his household establishments, domestics, and beasts of carriage and burden; to ask him why he thus persecuted and depressed him—adding, "The little which falls to my lot, even that he will not allow me to eat in peace and quietness." This declaration was accompanied by tears of anguish.

I delivered his Highness's message to Mr. Bristow, and represented to him all that had passed, and the state of mind in which he was. Mr. Bristow replied, that with respect

to

Digitized by Google

to the Nuvvaub's crying, such tricks and artifices were of no avail with him. That the Nuvvaub knew him well ——knew him to be *that* Mr. Bristow who always did that which he had said and declared he would do; that he should do so on the present occasion: that he had laboured hard for six years; that the gentlemen in Europe would have appointed him to a seat in the Supreme Council, but he had refused it, he had been labouring to obtain this office—the government of this country; that all people, and all his friends, had told him he would never obtain it. Yet at last he was come, and he had positive orders to act in every respect as he thinks best; that he was possessed of full and complete authority; that he should cause the Treasurer and Comptroller to be appointed this year, and from the beginning of the next he would take the total revenue or treasury of the whole country into his own hands, and would himself issue in specie such sums as should be necessary; that such expences for elephants, horses, &c. were extravagant; that the number of domestics was immoderate; and that there was more victuals than was necessary dressed in the Nuvvaub's kitchen; that he would not permit or suffer such expences. I asked Mr. Bristow, if I was to communicate what he had said to the Nuvvaub? Yes, he replied, and that I should tell his Highness what he had said in plain terms; that he also would go face to face, and tell him so. Accordingly, at the end of two days, he came to the Nuvvaub, and desired him to make the appointments of Treasurer and Comptroller; adding, that they were points which he never would give up; that his orders from the gentlemen of the Council were peremptory.

His Highness replied, "If you have peremptory orders "on this subject, give to me a written copy of those or-"ders; my seal is forthcoming, take it, and do by force "whatever you think proper. I will shut up the doors "of my house, and there I will sit, and seclude myself "from all society."

Mr. Bristow replied, That he would give him a written copy of the orders from the gentlemen of the Council; and with regard to his seal, which he offered to send, he might send it.

For two days after the preceding conversation, the Nuvvaub sent his seal by the Mouluvvee, along with me, to Mr. Bristow; in consequence of which Mr. Bristow said, that if the Nuvvaub thought proper, he would act as he (Mr. Bristow) had desired, and in that case himself affix his seal to the Shoccahs; if not, he would not allow the business to depend upon the Nuvvaub's seal; he would send letters under his own seal to the Aumils, directing them to transmit the

the money to him, and he would keep the treasury in his own hands.

The having wrote those letters is mentioned by Mr. Bristow in his letter to me (vide copy, No. 4) to such a degree has he depressed and degraded the Nuvvaub. The conversations which have passed, and an account of the oppressions exercised towards his Highness, will be made known to you by his letter. When the Nuvvaub made objections to the appointments of Treasurer and Comptroller, grounded on the indignity and contempt which those appointments would bring upon him, Mr. Bristow directed his suspicions towards me, and wrote me a letter, to which I replied. Copies of both letters are submitted to your inspection (vide copies, No. 4 and 5); thence my culpability or innocence, together with Mr. Bristow's declarations respecting my dismission from office, and other particulars, will be made known to you. As my letter in reply contained a matter of fact recapitulation of all that had passed, Mr. Bristow did not reply to or contradict it.

The next time I waited upon him, he proposed that we should be reconciled to each other. I said that I was obedient to his pleasure; that I had not hitherto been wanting in obedience, and that in future I should not; but that kindness on his part was also necessary. He replied, that reconciliation on his part would depend upon my not having wrote to the Governor General any information of what was passing here. I replied, that I had nothing to do with writing accounts of what passed here; but that those things which he had done, and those things which he intended to do, were known to people of all descriptions in this city. That Mirza Ismael Beg, who was his counsellor and manager, had published them to every one, and that people spoke of them without reserve to each other. Mr. Bristow answered, that he had never mentioned any thing on these subjects to Ismael Beg. I said, "If that be the case, why does he presume to tell the people that you will turn out the Nuvvaub's Aumils, and appoint Aumils of your own? Many to whom he has made this declaration are ready to bear witness to the truth of it." On hearing this, he coldly replied, that he had never said so; for, as Ismael Beg had propagated these reports agreeably to Mr. Bristow's inclinations, he did not think it proper to call him to any account for them.

Such is Mr. Bristow's disposition, that he outwardly professes and caresses, while in reality he is endeavouring to expel me from my office, and then frequently denies or contradicts his own declarations. In the representation which I have made, I have not in one instance, deviated from the truth; and it is a positive proof of the reality of many of the

Digitized by Google

the particulars, that Mr. Bristow did not reply to those which are stated in my answer to his letter; but at our neat interview assumed appearances of affability and good-will. All persons of rank and condition in this city are fully acquainted with the foregoing circumstances. The absolute power assumed by Mr. Bristow in the affairs of this Surcar, is arrived at such a pitch, that, to consult the pleasure of the Nuvvaub, or to advise with me the conduct of affairs, are circumstances which he totally disregards. Thus the appointment of Mahummed Beg, a trooper under Mirza Aboo Taulib, the intimate of Mr. Johnson, to the Suzzauwulli of Furruckabad, by the removal of Mahummed Saied Khawn, and through the interposition of Ismael Beg, which some time since took place, is a circumstance known to all mankind. I represented to Mr. Bristow, that his Highness did not approve of the appointment; but my representation was disregarded, and he positively obliged me to write and deliver to him a Shoccah appointing Mahummud Beg. In the same manner he has resolved, and intends to send out Suzzauwuls from himself to all the Mahaulauts. He moreover, on all occasions, both in private and in public, declares, and has repeatedly said the same to me, that at the commencement of the ensuing year he will turn out all the Nuvvaub Vizier's Aumils, and appoint Aumils of his own; that he will order the whole of the revenues to be paid to him; and that he will issue to the Nuvvaub in specie, with his own hand, what he himself may think necessary for his Highness's expences; and that he will not suffer the authority of this Surcar to remain in a single Mahaul. He frequently says, "Why does the "Nuvvaub keep so many elephants and horses? Why are "such quantities of provisions dressed in his kitchen? Such "numbers of domestics are unnecessary, I will curtail the "whole."

With respect to us, who are your dependents, and the ministers of his Highness, our credit and executive authority in all affairs is utterly annihilated. Like the household servants of Mr. Bristow, we are day and night attending his commands; yet even by this conduct he will not be prevailed upon to govern with candour and complacency: notwithstanding all that we do, our hours are filled with unremitting alarms for the safety of our honour. We have no resource, but in your benevolence; no prospect of redress, but from your equity and justice. Impelled by the most urgent necessity, his Highness has written to you a narrative of his situation; and I, your devoted servant, have thus represented all that has passed under my observation, to the present time, without addition or diminution, that we, the ministers, may not hereafter be deemed guilty of

Digitized by Google

of neglect in withholding the neceſſary information of the preſent ſtate of things here. The happineſs and proſperity of the Nuvvaub depend upon your favour and kindneſs; *our* honour and ſtability on your bounty and ſupport. Whatever may be your determination in behalf of this Surcar, it will be received with joy and reſpect. Deeming it a duty to make this repreſentation, I have thus laid it before you. It was heretofore the eſtabliſhed cuſtom with the gentlemen appointed to ſuperintend the Campany's affairs at this Court, to take Jauedauds to the amount of the Company's demand, and to leave the balance of revenue, ariſing from the remainder of the country, at the diſpoſal of his Highneſs; in conſequence of which, more or leſs was forthcoming to the Tunkhaudars, Jagurdars, and Huzzoaree troops, and for the expences of the Nuvvaub's houſehold eſtabliſhments, elephants, horſes, camels, &c. In the preſent year, Mr. Briſtow, after taking the Company's Jauedaud, gave orders, that from the remainder of the revenues of this country, no money ſhould be iſſued to any perſon whatever: That, having appointed a Treaſurer and Comptroller, he would call in the monies, and direct the diſburſements himſelf; in conſequence of which, to the preſent period, no ſubſiſtence whatever has been received by the Tunkhaudars Jagurdars, Hindoſtan troops, or people employed in the offices of government, and they are one and all calling out for redreſs and juſtice. Such is the ſituation of things here, that all mankind are reduced to a ſtate of deſpair by the hand of Mr. Briſtow.

We, the miniſters, owe our preſent ſtations to your bounty. His Highneſs alſo is devoted to your pleaſure in all reſpects; and from the interchange of turbans between you and the late Nuvvaub, he conſiders you as the brother of his father. Whatever may be your pleaſure in behalf of his Highneſs, and with reſpect to the well-government of this country, which in a peculiar manner appertains to you, his Highneſs does in no reſpect whatever object; whatever directions you may give, thoſe directions he will obey.

If, from the kindneſs and affection which you bear towards His highneſs, you ſhall pleaſe to confer upon him diſcretionary powers for the diſcharge of the Company's demands, whatever may be the ſum ſtated by Mr. Briſtow to you as payable and to be paid in the courſe of the current year, his Highneſs, on receiving information of the amount, is ready and willing, with ſuch powers, to diſcharge the ſame; and we, the miniſters, in obedience to your pleaſure, and ſtrengthened and ſupported by you, will, at all events, raiſe the neceſſary ſupplies for the payment thereof: and for the enſuing year, agreeably to ſuch plan or ſyſtem as you may determine upon for the payment of the current demand,

Digitized by Google

demand, with discretionary powers to his Highness, we will take measures for the payment of the same in such manner that under the favour of God, and with your protection, the sums payable to the Company's Surcar shall be punctually received. By such a system your fame, and the fame of the English people, shall extend throughout this empire and due regard to your controlling power, and submission and obedience to your orders, though secretly operating, shall be so firmly established as shall afford you ample cause for satisfaction. The success of these proposals depends upon your favour: with you it must rest to form such a plan for the payment of the Company's demands as may be consistent with the honour and the dignity of the Nuvvaub Vizier; and whatever mode you may please to point out, with the blessing of God, agreeably thereto your pleasure shall be fulfilled, without the smallest deviation. Through God's favour, your knowledge and experience are celebrated among men; you are the support and protector of your friends, and affairs of every description are familiar to your penetration. It is appearent, that in case his Highness's authority shall be restored, bankers, merchants, friends and connexions—all will be filled with confidence. Looking forward to future benefits, every one will consider his difficulties as objects of indifference or satisfaction. The payment of the Company's demands, and the fulfilment of your pleasure, will be the first objects of their views and wishes. No man will complain of hardships; but in the expectation of future prosperity, one and all will with gratitude acknowledge your goodness, and chearfully submit to every possible saving, for the purpose of discharging the debt to the Company. With respect to these arrangements, whatever may be your pleasure will be proper and just, and our obedience is unlimited. Redress and protection in behalf of his Highness, from the hand of Mr. Bristow, under whom the most unbounded oppression is experienced, peculiarly depend upon your benevolence. Whatever may appear to you most proper, let us be favoured with your orders, and they shall be obeyed.

Concludes as usual.

Memorandum.

The Nuvvaub Vizier and Hyder Beg Khaun declare that, disgraceful as it is held amongst Mahummudans of their rank to prove facts upon oath, they will submit to it with respect to the contents of the preceding narratives, if the Governor General and Council require it.

A true copy of the translation,

E. HAY.

Acting Secretary to the Secret Department.

Naarrative

Digitized by Google

Narrative of substance of different conversations respecting the appointment of a Treasurer and Comptroller for the Nuvvaub's household establishments.

Altercations have been for some time past carried on between the Nuvvaub and Mr. Bristow, respecting the appointment of a Treasurer and Comptroller, under the authority of the latter, to the Vizier's household establishments, and for issuing pay to the Toorksuvvaurs. What has lately occurred on this subject is as follows: I represented to the Nuvvaub that as Mr. Bristow proposed those appointments in consequence of orders from the Governor General and Council, it was necessary and proper that he should comply with the pleasure of the Governor. His Highness replied, "In this case I shall be deprived absolutely of all power and respectability. I cannot believe that the governor has given such directions with respect to me." I represented, that as Mr. Bristow declared them to be the Governor's orders he should consent; that information should afterwards be transmitted to the Governor General, with whose pleasure, if it should prove to have been so, he would of course chearfully comply; on the contrary, if it should turn out to be otherwise, the Governor himself would forbid the measure. His Highness wept immoderately; he said that he was persecuted day and night; that Mr. Bristow did not allow him a moment's respite; that he now wanted to prevent his enjoying in peace and quietness even the little which he did get; that his friends and relations did not obtain the least provision in lieu of their sequestered Jagurs; that Mr. Bristow had forbid him to write his situation to the Governor, telling him he must correspond on these affairs; that he was without resource; that as Mr. Bristow formerly told him that neither he nor Hyder Beg should interfere in the appointment of the Treasury and Comptroller, or in the disbursements, but that he, the Nuvvaub, should make those appointments by his own authority; that he would go himself, and in person answer Mr. Bristow on the subject.

His Highness went accordingly, and told Mr. Bristow, that by nominating and appointing a Treasurer and Comptroller, he disgraced and rendered him, the Nuvvaub, contemptible, and that without obtaining any thing for himself but a bad name. Mr. Bristow replied, that such were the orders of the gentlemen of the Council, and that his Highness must appoint Sectul Raum Treasurer, and Tohokoor Daus Comptroller, as the persons fixed upon and recommended by him, Mr. Bristow. His Highness answered, that Tippur Chund was the old and established Treasurer to the troops, and desired that he might be continued;

that

that the issuing pay to the Toorksuvvaurs, &c. had all along been in his hands, and therefore proposed that he should continue to issue it; and with respect to his proposed appointment of Tahakoor Daus to the Comptrollership of the household, that Mirza Mahommud Hussun was the Comptroller; Tahakoor Daus might be appointed his Deputy or manager; that the money for the payment of the Toorksuvvaurs should be paid in to him, the Nuvvaub; that *he*, as heretofore, would send it to the Raja Tippur Chund, and that Tippur Chund would issue it. Mr. Bristow, it appears, consented to this arrangement: I was not present at the preceding interview. Some time afterwards Mr. Bristow gave the charge of the money for the payment of the Toorksuvvaurs to Mr. Cooper, and Mr. Cooper appointed a Treasurer on his own part to issue it to them; and caused Shoccahs to be written to the Aumils, directing them to include the Tunkhau monies for the payment of the Toorksuvvaurs in the amount of the Company's Tunkhau, and remit the whole to Mr. Bristow.

Mr. Bristow ordered me to cause the Nuvvaub's seal to be put to those Shoccahs: and further directed, that I should cause a house in the city to be procured, where the Treasurer for the disbursements to the household establishments should be kept; and said, that he would station a Subadar and guard of his own, for the protection of the Treasury.

In obedience to Mr. Bristow's order I affixed the seal to the Shoccahs, which drew upon me the Nuvvaub's displeasure. He observed, that Mr. Bristow had first agreed that those offices should be under his, the Nuvvaub's, authority; that he had now caused Shoccahs to be written, as just related, and have given them in charge to Mr. Cooper; that Mr. Cooper had appointed a Treasurer under him; and that the money which had arrived for the payment of the Toorksuvvaurs, had been delivered to Mr. Cooper's Treasurer; that Mr. Bristow demanded a separate house for the household Treasury, where he would place a Subadar and guard of his own: hence it was evident he had broken his engagements, and was about to divest him of his government altogether;—that he would not consent to it.

The Nuvvaub sent the following message to Mr. Bristow, by the people who came from him to confer with his Highness on this subject—That Mr. Bristow had agreed with him upon other arrangements, and that he had now introduced others very different; that to such arrangements he would not consent. From the time when Mr. Bristow declared to the Nuvvaub that I should not have any concern in these affairs, but that he, the Vizier, should settle

and manage them at his own pleaſure and diſcretion, I had withdrawn myſelf altogether.

When the Nuvvaub ſent the preceding anſwer, Mr. Briſtow addreſſed himſelf to me—ſaid, the Nuvvaub had broke his promiſe; that he, Mr. Briſtow, had propoſed Seetul Raum to fill the office of Treaſurer, and that the Vizier had mentioned the Raja Tippur Chund for the head of the public Treaſury, but that he now inſiſted he ſhould only have the payment of the troops: That he, Mr. Briſtow, would not conſent to this. That it was the orders of the gentlemen of the Council, that all the diſburſements ſhould be controlled and directed by him, and therefore he would take the whole of the Treaſury department into his own hands. I replied, that as he had himſelf declared to the Nuvvaub, that I ſhould have no concern or authority therein, I had declined all interference. That I had written and delivered to him the Shoccahs reſpecting the Toorkſuvvaurs, in obedience to his orders, and that the Nuvvaub alſo was diſpleaſed with me on that account; that I was unacquainted with what had paſſed between him and the Vizier. I added, "The Vizier ſays that you had left the whole to his management—that you afterwards broke through that engagement and cauſed Shoccahs to be written, including the Tunkhau of the Toorkſuvvaurs, in the Tunkhau of the Company; and that you have given the monies received in charge to Mr. Cooper, who has appointed a Treaſurer of his own—and you declare, that the Nuvvaub has retracted *his* promiſe."

Mr. Briſtow in reply, told me, That I muſt inform the Nuvvaub, that he would act as he had declared—that he had poſitive orders of the gentlemen of the Council in this reſpect—that the Treaſury and the diſburſements ſhould be under his management. I anſwered, that ſuch were the meſſages he ſent to the Nuvvaub by me; while he, on the contrary, told him, that he ſhould uſe his own pleaſure in the conduct of affairs—that I would carry the meſſage agreeably to his orders, and deſired to know his pleaſure, in caſe the Nuvvaub ſhould not be pleaſed to conſent. Mr. Briſtow replied, that at all events he would do as he had declared, let the Nuvvuab be pleaſed or diſpleaſed—and demanded whether I would or would not pay obedience to the orders of the Governor General and the gentlemen of the Council? I anſwered, that while I had life I would comply with all ſuch directions as he ſhould give to me, agreeably to the orders of the Governor General and Council—that I was obedient to his authority—that I had hitherto fulfilled all his commands, and that I was ſtill ready to obey them.

Agreeably

Digitized by Google

Agreeably to Mr. Bristow's orders, I delivered his message to the Vizier, who said, in reply, that Mr. Bristow had deviated from his agreement with him; and that he would not consent: That he would go and answer Mr. Bristow in person. While we were engaged in this conversation, information arrived that Mr. Bristow was coming to the presence.—He and Mr. Cooper came shortly after, and I retired.

The Nuvvaub and Mr. Bristow conversed for some time, and then the Vizier ordered me to be called. What had passed previous to this I am unacquainted with; but on my return, Mr. Bristow told the Nuvvaub before me, that by the orders of the gentlemen of the Council, he was directed to take into his own hands all the disbursements for the Nuvvaub's household establishments, and the payment of the troops of the Surcar. The Nuvvaub replied, that Mr. Bristow had told him that neither he nor I should have any concern in these affairs; but that he, his Highness, should himself appoint both the Treasurer and Comptroller, and order his own disbursements at his pleasure. That now Mr. Bristow had given the money for the payment of the Toorksuvvaurs in charge to Mr. Cooper, who had appointed a Treasurer to act under him; and that he had caused Shoccahs to be written to the Aumils without his knowledge, directing those monies in future to be included in the Company's Tunkhau. That Mr. Bristow had agreed that the payment of the household establishment, expences, and servants, should be at his disposal—had agreed to the Comptrollership of Mirza Mahummud Hussun—and to the deputy Comptrollership of Tahakoor Daus. That now he insisted on the name of Mirza Mahummud Hussun being struck out, and that those offices should be subject to his authority. "Henee," added the Nuvvaub, "it is evident "to me, that you are about to divest me of my rights al-"together. "If such are the orders of the gentlemen of the Council, give them to me in writing, and I will act in obedience to those orders—my seal is at hand, I will send it to you, and may manage as you may think best. I will shut up the doors of my house, there I will sit, and seclude myself from all society.

Mr. Bristow replied, that the divesting his Highness of his rights was not intended—that what he said proceeded from a regard to his welfare—that it would be better for his Highness to comply with willingness—that he would give to him in writing the orders he had received from the gentlemen of the Council—That if his Highness would not comply willingly, it was well; he might send his seal to him, and he would carry those orders into execution. I represented to the Nuvvaub, in the presence of Mr. Bristow,

 that

Digitized by Google

that such disputes between them were improper; that it would be better to act with harmony, and in conjunction with each other. The Nuvvaub turned to me in rage, and replied, " He made agreements with me, and is acting in " opposition to those agreements. Nay, he even now says, " that he will act thus. You seize me by the throat, and " will not suffer me to speak." In a word, at the conclusion of this conversation, Mr. Bristow got up in displeasure, and returned home.

I waited upon him there. He told me that at all events he must carry this measure into execution; that his Highness had refused to give the Shoccahs; that he himself would write letters to the Aumils, and that I must write letters also. I replied, that I was in every respect ready to obey his orders, but desired to know his determination in case I should fall under the Nuvvaub's displeasure. He replied, that in that case he would support and protect me. I desired to know whether, if the Nuvvaub should deliver his seal, I should bring it. He replied, " If the Nuvvaub gives " you his seal, bring it; if not I will write the letters from " myself. The orders of the gentlemen of the Council to " me are positive, that whether the Nuvvaub is pleased or " displeased I shall, at all events, carry this measure into " execution, and I will now execute them." I answered, that agreeably to the orders I had received from the Governor, I was obedient to his directions; here I took leave, and returned home. As Mr. Bristow's disposition is violent and precipitate, he wrote me a letter on the evening of the same day; a copy of his letter, together with a copy of what I wrote in reply, accompany this (vide No. 4. and 5). In the morning I waited upon Mr. Bristow again; he said to me, that at all events I must obtain the Nuvvaub's consent; that delay in the execution of the measure he had proposed reflected disgrace upon him. I observed, that *he* refused to comply with the Nuvvaub's proposals. He replied, the object was to do the business effectually; that the name of Mirza Mahummud Hussun should be erased; that Tahakoordaus should be the Comptroller to the houshold establishments, that Dewurgeerdass should be the Treasurer, and that Raja Tippur Chund should be Treasurer, as heretofore, for the payment of the troops. I went and communicated the foregoing to the Nuvvaub: His Highness replied, that he should be disgraced by these new appointments of Treasurer and Comptroller, but he was without remedy, he would comply with Mr. Bristow's pleasure on certain conditions, viz. that as he forbid him from writing his situation to the governor, he, Mr. Bristow, himself should write in his behalf, and represent the state of the case to the Governor General. We, that his Highness by his importunity,

Digitized by Google

tunity, had been forced to comply, but that the measure was not agreeable to him, and he should entreat the Governor's permission to abolish the new appointments of Comptroller and Treasurer; that Mr. Bristow should send the money for the payment of the Toorksuvvaurs to him, the Nuvvaub, and that he, as formerly, would send it to Tippur Chund to be issued. I returned to Mr. Bristow, and communicated the Nuvvaub's answer: Mr. Bristow consented that after the appointments had taken place, he would write to the Governor, and recommend the Nuvvaub's wishes; and that he would act agreeably to the orders he should receive from the Governor in reply.

According to the pleasure of Mr. Bristow, Dawaugau Daus has been appointed Treasurer, Tahakoor Daus Comptroller of the Household, and Rajah Tippur Chund Paymaster to the Toorksuvvaurs, &c. It remains to be seen whether Mr. Bristow will write to the Governor agreeably to his promise, or not. Whatever may be the Governor's pleasure, his orders shall be complied with.

Letter from Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Khaun.

Introduction as usual.

A list of the Purwanehs issued by the Nuvvaub Vizier to the respective Aumils, on account of the Tunkhau monies for the expences of the household, together with a statement of the particular sums, accompany this letter; but I have kept the Purwanehs in my own hands, as they have not received the signature and seal of the Vizier.

If by another effort you can bring this business to a conclusion agreeably to my wishes, so much the better; if not, it will be necessary that letters agreeably to the enclosed draft, be written by me, by you, and transmitted to the Aumils. In case his Highness should refuse his assent, you will write the letters from yourself, corresponding with the enclosed draft, and bring them with you, as I shall send them off to-morrow with my own letters, which are now ready, and written to the same purport to the Aumils.

The Governor General is at all events determined on the improvement of the Nuvvaub's affairs. From my reliance on you, I have been led to postpone this matter during a long period; but as I consider a further procrastination of it as a breach of the Governor General's orders, and as the cause of the disarrangement of all public business, therefore, from an attention to the regulation of affairs in general, it is out of my power to defer it any longer. Thus, in consequence of my friendship for you, I have not, down to the

 present

Digitized by Google

present time, which includes a period of three or four months, communicated the accompanying extract from the Governor General's letter, having still relied on you for the accomplishment of this business. Now, from absolute necessity, I write you plainly, to reflect and meditate with attention on the mischiefs which must follow [to you] from delay in such matters as these; such delay being the cause of the disorder and disarrangement of all affairs.

In short, you say that his Highness refuses to listen to your representations in this business; this too is full of danger with respect to you; you are the Nuvvaub's deputy, possessing unlimited authority, yet you represent, and lay before him measures of importance, and are unable to obtain his assent to them. Whenever the confidence of the Nuvvaub Vizier is withdrawn from you, and necessary measures can no longer be carried into execution, the business is at an end. I am every way disposed to countenance and support you, but I cannot deviate from the orders of the Governor General; it is proper that you do not postpone this business, or the muster of the Toorksuvvaurs, beyond our meeting to-morrow morning.

Let no one but you obtain a knowledge of the contents of this letter.

Extract from a Letter from the Governor General to Hyder Beg, enclosed to him in the preceding Letter to Mr. Bristow.

"The first is this, Show how thin the veil is by which "you attempt to cover this policy, and of course to con- "vince you that I shall receive and construe every declara- "tion, however made to me from the Nuvvaub, and every "letter written in his name, tending to destroy or lessen "the frindship subsisting between us, as your declaration, "as your letter: the 2d is, That as I do not so much "ascribe these articles to you as to the evil counsels and en- "couragements which you have lately received from other "persons, whose names I need not mention, you may see "and know on what terms you may expect hereafter to re- "tain that friendship and support which I have hitherto "given you. For the rest I refer you to Mr. Bristow, to "whom, both verbally and in writing, I have commu- "nicated every tittle of my sentiments, intentions, and "expectations upon this subject."

Answer from Hyder Beg Khaun to Mr. Bristow.

I have received your favour; agreeably to your commands I will make the representation what he may please to

say

Digitized by Google

say in reply. The letters to the Aumils I will write and deliver to you, agreeably to your orders. You are pleased to say, "That from your reliance on me you have refrained hitherto. That if, possessing an intire authority and power in the Surcor of the Vizier, I declare that he refuses to attend to my representations, the worst consequences are to be apprehended therefrom to me, inasmuch as I am the Deputy of the Nuvvaub, possessing unlimited authority,—yet represent and lay before him measures of importance, and am unable to obtain his assent to them. That whenever the confidence of the Vizier is withdrawn from me, and necessary measures can no longer be carried into execution, the *business is at an end.*"—Although to reply to these particulars of your pleasure is to deviate from the respect due from the obedient; yet when, without cause and without fault, the hour of crimination arrives, to represent the real state of things becomes unavoidable. My power and authority in the Surcor of his Highness is the gift of the Governor, &c. I have hitherto received the support and assistance of the gentlemen in power here; regardless of the enmity of people at this court, and contemning their animosity, I have continued to do my duty; and in return for faithful services I have been included in the objects of the Governor General's favour. From you I hoped an encrease of support and assistance, of credit and of power. It must have proceeded from a change in my own fortune, and not from any deficiency of favour on your part, that my representations, by the efforts of enemies, have been rendered ineffectual.

From the moment of your arrival, I have not in any manner whatever been deficient in obedience: but have in every business, and without hesitation, fulfilled your commands, of whatever nature they might be; as in the important business respecting the regiments as Futty Gurr, the execution of which you were pleased to direct should not be suspended by attention to the Nabob's permission, or by the necessity of informing him thereof, in the same manner in every business whatever, on which I have received your orders, at whatever time received, and whatever the nature of them, I have paid the most implicit obedience, to those orders, on the instant. From my first appointment to the *Neabut*, I have been enabled to conduct the affairs of both Surcars, which I have ever considered as one and the same, by the assistance and support of the gentlemen here, and have on all occasions acted in obedience to their directions. And thus I have repeatedly represented to you, that on condition of support and assistance, I would execute all your commands; and that in the affairs of the Company, I was ready to fulfil the commands of the Governor General, those of the gentlemen of the Council, and your pleasure,

Digitized by Google

without hesitation or evasion, at the hazard of my life, inasmuch as I consider my own interest and prosperity as depending thereon.

When you formerly spoke to me respecting the Toorksuvvaurs, and the household establishments of the Nuvvaub Vizier, I then informed you, that I never had any concern in the management of those establishments—that this circumstance was known to the whole world, that they were under the direction of the Vizier's own people—and that he never would voluntarily consent to the measure. You told me in reply, "That the Governor General's orders were to be obeyed, and so I must inform the Nabob."

I, on my part, told his Highness, in the most pointed terms, that there was a necessity for his compliance with whatever proposals you should make by the Governor's order for the improvement of his affairs. But other people, at the same time, carried messages from you to the Nabob, importing that whatever his pleasure might be, you would act agreeably thereto; nay, you even went so far as to recommend in person to the Nabob, that I should not be employed in these affairs, but that he should conduct them as he thought proper himself. Other expressions dropt from you with respect to me, which I know not how to repeat, for such I never could have expected from you. This being the case, in justice consider, that having expressed yourself as you did express yourself, what authority, or influence, or respectability can remain with me? The conduct of this business did not depend upon me, and therefore the delay cannot have arisen from neglect on my part. Several people have been employed in conferences on this subject with the Nabob Vizier, by your orders. Now that, from motives of kindness and favour, you have directed me to forward this business, and added declarations respecting support and assistance, I am, as I have always declared, ready to obey; to whatever you shall please to command, I shall never object; and every way ready to obey your orders in the execution of affairs, *independent* of the inclinations of the Nabob Vizier, if you will assure me of support and protection in case of his displeasure: I have never yet objected, nor will I now object. Devoted and powerless as I am, the increase of my respectability and influence depends upon your favour towards me, and their diminution proceeds from opposite causes. Thus I have ever acted; and this I have repeatedly declared, and I now repeat that in the affairs of both Surcors I am ready to obey the orders of the Governor General, and the gentlemen of the Council, and your's, at the hazard of my life, and without evasion or excuse. The delay which has hitherto come to pass in this

Digitized by Google

this business has not in any manner proceeded from neglect on my part; the negotiation of this affair did not depend upon me; whenever I spoke to his Highness on the subject, he always replied, "Mr. Bristow has told me that you must "have nothing to do in these affairs; why then do *you* talk "to me on the subject? leave it to me and Mr. Bristow." This particular I have heretofore fully and repeatedly mentioned to you. Now that, from motives of kindness, you have favoured me with your commands, I am ready to obey them, I will act agreeably to your directions; if you had favoured me with them formerly, they would have been instantly executed, no delays would have intervened.

I wished the day before yesterday to lay this representation of the state of things before you, but was deterred by my apprehensions of your aptness to anger. As I entertain the fullest hopes from your favour, I have at length ventured on this communication of my situation.

Concludes as usual.

A true copy of the translation,

E. HAY,

Acting Secy. to the Secret Dept.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

Agreeable to the accompanying list, I have the honour to enclose complete statements of the Vizier's receipts and disbursements. Upon a scrutiny into the particulars, I am persuaded great savings may be made in the Motayenna; a large proportion of the charges under this head can only be considered as pensions. The number of 13,152 cavalry, and 48,715 infantry, do not exist; and it becomes a matter of the highest importance to the Vizier's affairs to regulate so evident an abuse. Ever since I took charge of my office, I have given uninterrupted attention to the obtaining the best information of the nature of the Motayenna, and the means of retrenching so useless an establishment; I have also made it my study to ascertain the corps which really exist, and may be called upon service in case the peace of the Vizier's dominions should be interrupted, either by intestine commotions, or invasion by an enemy.

I am sorry to inform you that, by every enquiry I have been able to make, it does not appear the Vizier could assemble an army of ten thousand men. The whole are many months in arrears; there is neither ammunition nor stores of any kind ready to equip troops for service; and the late tumults and insurrections of Zemindars prove the Motayenna not equal to the preserving the police of the country, much less able to act against a foreign enemy.

The Vizier can look to the Honourable Company only for the establishing his authority, and restoring his domini-

ons

Digitized by Google

ons to their former flourishing state. Agreeable to the stipulations in the treaty of Chunar, none but regular establishments were to be kept by the Vizier; and I shall now submit to your consideration the plans which I think it my duty to recommend to the Vizier, and that they should be executed with as much expedition as the state of affairs will admit.

The Turk Sewars have been distinguished for gallantry and good conduct on many occasions. The officers of this corps are principally men who were originally in the Company's service, and more accustomed to subordination than any other of the Vizier's troops. There are eight months arrears due to them, and as they appeared to me the fittest to be attached to the brigade in case service should occur, I have procured an assignment in their favour of nine lacks of rupees, the amount to be paid at Lucknow, and distributed to the men by proper paymasters, free of deductions, and in specie, as a gross abuse has often prevailed in paying them in goods instead of money. This corps being likewise on the spot, the Vizier may review and muster them, in which I propose having the honour to attend him. The state of their horses, arms, and accoutrements, may be minutely examined. Most probably a considerable reduction will take place of the men unfit for service, and in the establishment, as upon the certainty of regular payment in future, the rate of fifty rupees per month for every private trooper, is considerably above what they can fairly claim, and the establishments are loaded with supernumerary officers.

The gallant conduct of the Russaulah under the command of Abdul Rehman Cawn, now acting with Colonel Charles Morgan, and the encouragement given to that corps by your honourable Board, have led me to exert my endeavours in favour of his brother Mahomed Saaiid Cawn, who commands three hundred and twenty-one of the Vizier's cavalry. I have procured certain funds for the payment of his corps, and shall strongly recommend it to the Vizier, to withdraw the detachments of his Russaulah from the interior parts of the country, collect it in force at Lucknow, and issue the pay upon the plan proposed with respect to the Turk Sewars.

I shall, without further delay, advise the Vizier to abolish the practice of detaching troops in small bodies, which you will observe by the statement of the Motayenna, to have been carried so low as one in number. Whatever may be required in one district, ought to be composed of one corps. The Russaulahs may be reduced to one or two hundred. This will secure many advantages, particularly in the case of defection, where an individual quitting the service with so

so inconsiderable a force, will be of little consequence, and his place be easily supplied.

I must intreat your indulgence in regard to the immediate execution of the honourable Governor General's commands of the 23d September 1781, directing that the Vizier should be advised to abolish the system of assignments to his Motayenna. It may doubtless be gradually introduced; but if it were to be undertaken at the present time that such considerable arrears are due to the troops, it would, in my opinion, create a general spirit of discontent and mutiny, because they look to the assignments as the security for their pay; and I cannot devise any alternative that would satisfy them: When musters may be taken, and the establishments reduced to one general system, it may be safely executed. I hope, upon examination of the perplexed state of the business, it will not be thought unreasonable that I should state a delay of some months, probably the end of the year, as required, before his Excellency will be able to abolish the system of assignments. In such instances, when it can immediately be executed, I shall exert my utmost endeavours to persuade the Vizier no longer to postpone so necessary a measure.

It is out of my power at present to explain the particulars of the proposed reductions. Unless the Vizier acts directly in the business, by making the circuit of such districts as are the most deserving his attention, and deputing confidential agents to the remainder, the evil would be a long time before it could be completely remedied. I shall in the course of the execution of my duty, meet with great opposition in the misrepresentations of the persons interested against the reform. I hope the advantages to be derived from it will appear so evident to his Excellency, that he will not only sincerely and heartily assent to the measure, but support it by every exertion of his authority.

I have reason to believe all the accounts of the Motayenna, as well as other expences attending the Vizier's government, have not yet been furnished me. If, after enquiry, any omissions should have been made, or charges incurred on the same account twice inserted, I shall submit the particulars to your consideration.

I beg leave to inform you, the allowances on account the Jaghyres and Tuncaws were recorded upon the Vizier's books at the following annual amount:

The Jaghyres — —	39,38,054	4	6
The Tuncaws — —	17,19,610	—	—
	56,57,664	4	6

The

Digitized by Google

The proposed allowance on account the Tuncaws, at per statement, No. 1	10,25,214 12 —
The proposed allowance on account the Jaghyres, as per statement, No. 2	22,68,671 — —
	32,93,885 12 —
Reduction per annum — Rupees	23,63,779 8 6

Even in the present reduced state the amount is very high; but, considering the persons to whom they are granted, being principally the Vizier's relations, the old dependents of his family, or the servants of government, it would be difficult to make further reductions, particularly as most of them were persons living in great affluence, and now depending solely upon the bounty of the Vizier for subsistence. The funds for the payment of these allowances can only be procured by the savings and reductions of useless and unnecessary expences in all arrangements; however, the Vizier's personal charges, the army, and the honourable Company's claims, will be first provided for.

The honourable the Governor General, in his instructions at Chunar, dated 23d September 1781, directed the late Resident to carry into execution the stipulation the Vizier had entered into for the regulations of his personal expences: no measures have yet been taken in this business; and I now beg leave to submit to your consideration the heads of the plan, which I have recommended to the Vizier; viz.

1st. That the sums appropriated for defraying the wages and allowances of the Vizier's servants, and the departments of his household, should be deposited under the charge of a Treasurer.

2d. That the monthly expences of the Vizier's servants and the departments of his household should be fixed, and paid by the same Treasurer without fee or deduction.

3d. That no monies should be issued except by the Vizier's warrant, and the official attestations of the acting Minister.

4th. That persons holding the great offices of the Vizier's household shall not be entrusted with other employments, or be farmers of or any way concerned in the collection of the revenues.

In explanation of the first head, I beg leave to inform you, the Vizier's servants have constantly suffered great distress from the irregular payment of their wages and allowances.

Digitized by Google

lowances. Arrears of many months are due to the greatest part of them; a few only have received their right; and they are principally the persons at the head of the departments. Money is often procured with difficulty for the stables, kitchen, elephants, buildings, and other current disbursements. The acting minister asserts, that the sum of forty-nine lacks was last year appropriated to the Vizier's expences; out of this were paid not only the charges of his household, but part of the allowances of his excellency's relations, compensations to persons whose Jaguires were resumed, and also pensions to the dependants of the Vizier's family, many of which originated in the reign of the late Nabob Sujah Ul Dowlah. In proposing that the funds on account of the Vizier's household "shall be deposited under charge of a Treasurer," I mean in a public chest, agreeable to the Honourable Governor General's instructions, and that one key should be kept by the Treasurer, and one by the acting minister; or any great officer of state to whom you may direct me to advise the Vizier to intrust so important a charge.

The second head entirely conforms to the Honourable the Governor General's instructions, and needs no explanation. On the third head I would submit to your consideration, whether an officer in the character of an Aumeen should not be appointed to see the establishments were not encroached upon; and on his stating objections, that payments might be stopped until the Vizier's pleasure should be known; and if his Excellency, on consideration, repeats his orders for his warrant passing the Treasury, it should then become valid.

The evils which the fourth head proposes to correct, is the principal cause of the mal-administration of the affairs of the Vizier's household; the same men being farmers of revenue or aumils, and superintendants of departments about his Excellency's person, make a confusion of accounts, and give them an opportunity of withholding payment, and often appropriating the funds to the support of expences, which are not to be considered as requiring the first supplies; for instance, I think buildings, matters which relate merely to state, such as Kelaats, &c. should be provided for after the payment of the servants wages, the kitchen, stables, and other particulars, which may be stated in the light of necessaries.

This is the outline of the plan I have proposed for the regulating the Vizier's household; and I entertain great hopes, that from a less sum than has hitherto been appropriated on that account, every department will be amply furnished; probably a saving will accumulate at the end of the year,

Digitized by Google

year, from the mode of issuing the disbursements, now estimated at the sum of thirty-two lacks of Rupees.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, 21st January 1783.

JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the
Vizier's Court.

The Governor General lays before the Board the following letters from Mr. Bristow to him, dated 12th December; and inclosures, 30th December, 4th and 31st March, and 8th April.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esquire, Governor General.

Honourable Sir,

Your instructions of the 23d October have been the invariable rule of my conduct; and now I have held my office a sufficient time to speak with some degree of certainty to most points, I shall enter upon an explanation of the state of this government.

Your observation, that your new measures will require a long time to execute, is but too true. The total want of system, and lawless habits which prevail, must be corrected by progressive means; the peace and security of the country, and regularity in the several departments of the state, will be gradually established. I beg leave to answer the several heads of your instructions in the same order in which you have placed them.

Immediately after my arrival I urged the acting minister to devise, and recommend arrangements for the complete discharge of the balance, at the conclusion of the year. To relieve myself from censure in case of failure in this essential point, it is necessary I should explain the transaction with the bankers. The balance at the end of last year was not in fact paid, but transferred to the bankers, and encreased by the load of a very high interest. There were two distinct engagements; one for bills immediately granted on the presidency for — 26,50,000

Another for Teeps promising bills, to be delivered by installments at the following periods, and in the following proportions, viz.

Bhaudun —	1189 —	6,50,000		
Cooaur —	1190 —	6,50,000		
Cautick —	Do. —	6,50,000		
Aughun —	Do. —	6,50,000		
				26,00,000

By

By this statement you will observe the revenues of the present year have been anticipated in the sum of — — 52,50,000

Bearing an interest of two per cent. per mensum. I enclose an estimate (No. 1.) of the whole demand upon the Vizier, on account of the Honourable Company and the bankers, by which it appears his Excellency has to furnish this year the sum of one crore forty-one lacks two thousand five hundred and seventy-eight rupees (rupees 1,41,02,578). Mr. Middleton gave his bond to the bankers, on account the first engagement, rupees 26,50,000, for bills on the presidency, engaging to see them repaid their money. The revenues of certain districts were assigned to him on account of the bankers, and were, as collected, to be paid to them.

When Almass Ally Cawn returned to Lucknow, a negociation was set on foot to transfer the security from Mr. Middleton to him, and concluded a few days before my arrival. The bond was returned to Mr. Middleton, and Almass's granted in lieu of it. The additional districts proposed to have been entrusted to Almass, were part of those assigned to the bankers; and the Vizier's orders, and other documents, had past for putting him in possession, a few days before my arrival; I was soon expected, and Almass of his own accord deferred taking charge, as I have already informed you and the board, until the measure should, through me, receive your sanction.

When I considered the power possessed by Almass, and your instructions to reduce it, if possible, I did not hesitate to reject every idea of extending his authority; a difficulty occured about the bond he had granted, and a payment he had made to the bankers, of three lacks seventy-five thousand rupees (R. 3,75,000); the latter point was easily settled, by giving him credit for that sum, on account the revenues of Etwa, Cora, &c.; but the bankers refused any security except mine, in lieu of the bond. The bills of exchange had actually been transmitted to the board, and were in course of payment; to have annulled the engagement would have disappointed you of a resource, and hurt our credit with the bankers; it was absolutely necessary that Almass' bond should be returned to him, I was therefore induced to take the engagement upon myself, and I am happy to find, by the Board's letter of the 22d ultimo, that my conduct has been approved.

Although my attention has been principally directed to the liquidation of the balance, I have hitherto found it utterly impossible to procure assignments equal to the amount required. Districts have been over-rated to me;

Digitized by Google

me; and before I can conclude a fair engagement with any Aumil, I am obliged, in every instance, to separate fictitious from just estimates, which takes up time, and is the cause of my not sending the accounts.

I have been endeavouring to prevail upon the Vizier to fix his disbursements within his income: if I can accomplish this point, I shall be careful that the establishments shall not be hereafter encroached upon; the particulars will of course be transmitted to you.

I have repeatedly informed the minister, no excuses will be admitted in the exculpation of a balance at the conclusion of the year; that the whole must be paid, and the means rest with him.

You will observe, by the estimate of the demands upon the Vizier, fourteen lacks were mentioned by Mr. Middleton as the balance. The acting minister expected he could prove claims nearly to this amount, due from the Company to the Vizier, which would liquidate the account. I have explained this matter fully to him, and believe he is now convinced of the justness of the corrected account. An examination however into the disputed points should, in my opinion, take place, and any trifling difference that may be established, allowed to the Vizier. This I submit to your consideration: in the mean time I shall persist in my endeavours to realize the whole amount.

First, *their Government.*

Despotism is the principle upon which every measure is founded, and the people in the interior parts of the Country are ruled at the discretion of the Aumil or Phousdar for the time being. They exercise, within the limits of their jurisdiction, the powers of life and death, and decisions in civil and other cases, in the same extent as the Sovereign at the capital. The forms prescribed by the ancient institutions of the Mogul empire are unattended to, and the will of the provincial magistrate is the sole law of the people. The total relaxation of the Vizier's authority, his inattention and dislike to business, leave the Aumils in possession of this dangerous power, unawed, uncontrouled by any apprehension of retrospection, or the interference of justice. I can hardly quote an instance, since the Vizier's accession to the Musnud, of an Aumil having been punished for oppression, though the complaints of the people and the state of the country are notorious proofs of the violences daily committed—it is even become unsafe for travellers to pass, except in large bodies.—Murders, thefts, and other enormities shocking to humanity, are committed in open day.

Every

Digitized by Google

Every Zemindar should be constituted the magistrate in his Zemindary, and collect the revenues, according to certain established rates recorded in the cutcherry, and published throughout the district. The Aumil should be the controlling power between the Ryot and the Zemindar; should enforce the regulations; see peace and good order preserved in the several Zemindarries; and make the Zemindars accountable for all tumults, thefts, and murders, within their jurisdiction—in great towns there ought to be a cutwall, or Haakeem, to distribute justice.

Such has been the system of this government, that the oppressions have generally originated with the Aumils. They have been rarely selected for their abilities, or integrity, but from favour, or the means to advance a small sum upon being appointed to their office. The Aumil enters upon his trust, ruined in reputation and fortune; and unless he accomplishes his engagements, which is seldom the case, disgrace and punishment follow. Though the balance of revenue may be rigorously demanded of him, it has not been usual to institute any inquiry for oppression. The Zemindars, thus left at the mercy of the Aumils, are often driven to rebellion. The weak are obliged to submit to his exactions, or fly the country; and the Aumil, unable to reduce the more powerful, is compelled to enter into a disgraceful compromise. Every Zemindar looks to his fort for protection, and the country is crouded with them. Almass Ally Cawn asserts, there are not less than seven hundred in his districts; hence it has become a general custom to seize the brother, son, or some near relation or dependent of the different Zemindars, as hostages for the security of the revenue. A great Aumil will sometimes have three or four hundred of these hostages, whom he is obliged to confine in places of security.

A few men, like Almass Ally Cawn and Coja ain ul Deen, have, from their regularity in the performance of pecuniary engagements, rendered themselves useful to the Vizier. A strict scrutiny into his affairs was at all times irksome to his Excellency; and none of the ministers or officers about his person possessing the active persevering spirit requisite to conduct the detail of engagements for a number of small farms, it became convenient to receive a large sum from a great farmer, without trouble or deficiency. This system was followed by the most pernicious consequences; these men were above all controul; they exacted their own terms, and the districts they farmed were most cruelly oppressed. The revenue of Rochilcund is reduced above a third, and Almass Ally Cawn's administration is well known to have been extremely violent.

The foregoing representation of the ſtate of this government will, I hope, ſatisfy you of the difficulty in collecting the revenues. A very ſtrong military force will be required to preſerve the country in peace. The number for which funds are at preſent allotted, would, in my opinion, amply ſuffice, if it exiſted; but I ſuppoſe not two thirds of the men kept upon the books are actually entertained. The diſcipline and proper application of this force will become a matter of ſerious conſideration: I do not mean to propoſe, they ſhould be put under the command of Britiſh officers, as a very extraordinary expence would attend that meaſure; and I do not think the ſervice of the collections would be ſo well executed. The troops now in the Vizier's ſervice are ill paid and ill appointed, not owing to the want of means; as I think, when I ſhall forward you the ſtatements I have been ſo long endeavouring to complete, you will judge them adequate to every ſervice, if not diſſipated and ſquandered away. The evil originates in the want of checks upon the diſburſements to the army, of proper officers and commiſſaries to ſee them duly appropriated.

The ſame inconveniencies exiſt in the receipts of the Vizier's revenue, and other branches of his government in the general department. Offices of Collections and Treaſury, and Courts for the adminiſtration of juſtice, ought doubtleſs to be eſtabliſhed. In a duty of ſo delicate a nature, as the execution of your commands on this head, I muſt neceſſarily expoſe myſelf to the oppoſition of perſons intereſted in the continuance of the abuſe.

Second, *Military Defence, and Diſtribution of the Nabob's Force.*

Third. *Revenue.*

I have in the foregoing Repreſentation in part anſwered theſe heads. I beg leave to defer what remains to be ſaid on them till I forward you the ſtatements.

Fourth, *Zemindars, and means taken to reſtore peace.*

The collection of the revenues under the controul of the Aumils is entirely in the hands of the Zemindars, the lands throughout the country being granted in Talooks and Zemindarries.

The means taken to reſtore peace are explained in my letter to the Board of the 1ſt inſtant. The detachments from the Honourable Company's troops I conſider only a temporary expedient. I propoſe recommending, that a ſeparate plan for the adminiſtration of juſtice in all matters of revenue ſhould be formed, and carried into execution. You may perhaps make this branch part of the duties of the office of

collections,

Digitized by Google

collections, and the Decan will act in it, and appoint deputies in each Aumildarry.

Peace is by no means restored, for if the Company's troops were relieved from the places at which they are now stationed, I shall expect the commotions would be renewed. Gorroockpore, Bairaitch, Sultanpore, Asemgur, Gonda, and all the frontier, are provinces in which the Vizier's authority is ill established. In some of them there are troubles at this time. New detachments of the Honourable Company's troops might be adviseable, if the state of affairs in other respects did not render the appearance of a formidable force on the frontiers necessary, as well to awe foreign powers, as to keep Almass Ally Cawn, and Khoja Ayn ul Deen, within the line of their duty.

Fifth, *Character and Credit of the principal Aumils.*

When I forward the statements of the revenue, I will take the names of the Aumils in order, and answer you upon this head.

Sixth, *Whether the Sums lately levied have been drawn from the Country, or borrowed, and Assignments given for the repayment on the Revenues of the last, or by anticipation of the current year.*

Seventh, *By what means were those Collections made?*

By anticipation, as I have already explained under the head of balance and assignment.

I have communicated your commands to Hyder Beg Cawn. He urges, in excuse for the letters which have been written in a tone of reproach and resentment, that they were forwarded unknown to him, that the Vizier has people about him who are happy at an opportunity of giving trouble, and wish to overset the influence of the English in this government. He professes a just sense of the confidence you have placed in him, of his intire dependence upon you, and that without your protection he should lose his office, his property and possibly his life. He assured me of his utmost endeavours to prevent a repetition of letters in a similar style, and that he is ready to give proofs of the sincerity of his attachment to the Company.

I used the discretion you allowed me of not delivering your letter to Hyder Beg Cawn. I found upon my arrival, as you informed me, all the influence of this government vested in his hands. I was under the necessity of having recourse to him for information and accounts; and it appeared unadviseable to raise doubts in his mind of my good intentions, or to express an inclination to institute a retrospection into his conduct: I previously wished to obtain his confidence,

Digitized by Google

confidence, to convince him that I acted upon public grounds, and if possible, persuade him to unite heartily with me in every measure. I could then deliver the letter, informing him of the view with which I had acted, and not be liable to any suspicion of having solicited it. In the mean time I endeavoured to acquire a knowledge of the business, that I might be enabled to report to you my opinion of his attachment to your government, and of his zeal, ability, and integrity, in the discharge of his duty. I deferred presenting him the letter, until the 30th ultimo, and have left him to answer it without giving any advice.

He rendered me his assistance very heartily and willingly in Almass's business. A jealousy had long subsisted between Hyder Beg Cawn and Almass; the latter having been considered a pretender to the Neabut, it was supposed Hyder Beg intended to ruin him; his conduct in withdrawing is imputed by many who think favourably of him, to necessity, otherwise his fortune might have been endangered. A reconciliation took place between them, and they publicly continue upon the best terms, but I believe neither to be sincere. If I had expressed any dissatisfaction against Hyder Beg, he and Almass would probably have formed a combination, and I should have had new difficulties to contend with.

The accounts I have called for have many of them been furnished, and Hyder Beg has given me his information and opinion of every matter upon which I have asked them: I cannot help however complaining of the delays in transacting the most common business; this proceeds from no proper channels through intermediate offices being established; all accounts are framed by Hyder Beg; he plans and executes every measure; he proposes, and in short undertakes matters which should be trusted to subordinate agents, and executed off hand. Any undue influence he may be thought to possess will be done away by the degree of consequence and support you may think proper to give to the new officers.

I have hitherto left Hyder Beg Cawn in the possession of his power, as being the acting minister, and entrusted with the executive authority so long as he might discharge his duty: I thought I conformed to your commands in supporting him. I have not failed repeatedly to expostulate with him upon the consequences of procrastination in the execution of the business. In the event of further delays, I shall continue my expostulations, and by exerting the powers with which you have invested me, avoid exposing myself to your censure for an appearance of neglect, which does not originate with me. I beg leave to remark, by being the instrument of establishing officers which are to serve as

a con-

Digitized by Google

a controul over Hyder Beg's hitherto unparticipated and intire administration, I shall unavoidably expose myself to his jealousy and resentment.

I beg leave to submit to your consideration the following persons to be nominated to the office you have thought proper to direct should be immediately established, viz.

The Collections	Rajah Soorut Sing, who was Dewan to the late Vizier.
The Treasurer	Rajah Tipper Chund, who likewise held an office similar to this in the late Vizier's time.

Mr. Midleton informed the Board, under date the 17th of September 1782, of his having named Tussia aveeses, or Commissaries for mustering the troops. I purpose enforcing this measure, as I find the abuses in the Vizier's army prevail to an unaccountable degree; many corps are more than a year in arrears, and no part of it intirely paid up, notwithstanding the large sums annually charged on this account under the head of Mootayenna. I have already informed you of my hopes of attaching the cavalry, by being instrumental in procuring their pay.

The institution of Adauluts will be attended with the utmost difficulty: The reasons you have yourself assigned are so forcible, that I have only to trouble you with a few hints in corroboration of your own opinions.

The Nabob, the ministers, and every man of rank at his court, will be interested in opposing the institution of courts of justice. The Nabob is surrounded by persons who, presuming upon the countenance they receive from him, commit every kind of oppression; They are generally men of low birth, suddenly raised to power and consequence, which they are ignorant how to use. Ths ministers have more creditable dependants, but they presume, in an equal degree, on their influence. The resumption of Jagheers, and reduction of salaries, have unavoidably involved numbers of people in debts, which has led to the commission of acts of violence.

To institute Courts of Justice upon a respectable footing, they should extend to men of all descriptions: The favourites and dependents of the Nabob, and ministers long accustomed to live independent of all controul, will not easily be brought to submit to a regular jurisdiction. I would, however, propose that Molavee Mowbinc, the man recommended by Mr. Middleton, should continue, with the name of Sudder ul Huck. When regularity shall be introduced into other branches of the government, the extension

Digitized by Google

tenſion of the powers of the Sudder ul Huck will form part of the part.

I am to ſpeak to the characters of the Aumils in general when I may forward the ſtatement. Pledges for the perſonal appearance of Almaſs Ally Cawn, and Khauja Ain ul Deen, cannot be obtained. Theſe two men are in charge of the frontier provinces of Cora, Etawah, and Rohilcund.

I have already explained my ſentiments and conduct on this head, both to yourſelf and the Board.

Upon every occaſion of tumults that have occurred ſince my arrival, I have recommended that the Vizier's Shokes be iſſued, publiſhing his determination to apprehend and puniſh offenders with the greateſt ſeverity. But in the preſent ſtate of the Vizier's government, with an ill-paid army, and Aumil's doubtful of their permanence in office, it is an impoſſibility to expect commotions will immediately ceaſe. For other matters relative to rebellious Zemindars I beg leave to refer you to my anſwer to the third head of your inſtruction upon the government of the Vizier's dominions.

The miniſter has long ſince promiſed me an account of the revenues of theſe diſtricts; when I obtain it you ſhall receive the fulleſt information.

I have obeyed your commands on this head.

My letter to the Board of the 1ſt inſtant will have informed you of the tranſactions at Ferockabad.

My letters to you of the 28th ultimo, and the Board of the 4th ultimo, will have informed you of my opinion and tranſactions with reſpect to Fyzoolla Cawn.

The battalion at Fyzabad is recalled; and my letter to the Board of the 1ſt inſtant has explained my conduct to the Begum. The letter I addreſſed her, a tranſlation of which I beg leave to encloſe (No. 2) was with a view of convincing her that you readily aſſented to her being freed from the reſtraints which had been impoſed upon her, and that your acquieſcence in her ſufferings was a meaſure of neceſſity, to which you were forced by her extraordinary conduct. I wiſhed to make it appear this was a matter on which you directed me to conſult the Vizier's pleaſure, that it might be known you were the ſpring from whence ſhe was reſtored to her dignity and conſequence.

I have endeavoured to conciliate the Vizier, and never undertaken any meaſure but under the ſanction of his orders. Hyder Beg Cawn did, upon my firſt entering on the buſineſs, mentioning his Excellency's objections to the mode of receiving the Company's claims by aſſignment on the country; and ſounded me, whether it would not be practicable to induce you to make an alteration in the ſyſtem:

He

Digitized by Google

He even told me, the Vizier expressed his disapprobation of the detachment under the command of Colonel Sir John Cumming. His Excellency had agreed to defray the expence of four regiments previous to my arrival, but he wished the troops might not be stationed in his dominions; of this transaction you have received information. The Nabob told me, at my second interview, that his country was in peace, and he did not require any further military aid from the company: This language corresponded with what I had reason to expect, from your explanations. I candidly told Hyder Beg Cawn that I considered it dictated by him; when I afterwards furnished him with the estimate of claims upon the Vizier, he assented to the account, and assured me of his entire conviction of the necessity of the detachment, and that the Vizier would approve its being stationed in his dominions. Since this conversation Hyder Beg Cawn has not pleaded any objection by the Vizier as obstacles to my measures, but has obtained his sanction on every occasion that I have found it necessary in the execution of my duty.

Hyder Beg Cawn confesses to me that funds to the amount of forty-nine lacks of rupees were last year appropriated to the Vizier's expences. From this sum he was to defray not only the charge of his household, but the pensions of the Turncawdars and Jagheedars, whose Jagheers were resumed. The nature of the disbursements you will understand from the statements.

I think the sums charged could not have been applied to the services for which they were allotted: The persons intrusted with the great offices about his Excellency's person must have abused the confidence reposed in them, as large arrears are due to the Nabob's servants;—to ascertain the fact will require time. I have recommended that the plan you have thought proper to direct in regard to the Vizier's expences be carried into execution; and shall in due time communicate the intended arrangements for your approbation. Notwithstanding the language occasionally held by the Vizier, I have every reason to believe he is sensible of the advantages he derives from his alliance with the Company, and of his inability to support himself without it. You are so fully acquainted with his character and disposition, that I shall not presume to trouble you with any particulars of his conduct. I only hope, in compliance with your directions, so long as I may have the honour to hold my present station, that I shall be able to obtain his confidence, and prevent expostulations which might interrupt the confidence and cordiality that ought to subsist between his Excellency and your government.

 I be-

Digitized by Google

I believe the principal object of the Vizier's expostulation was to prevent any interference in the government of his dominions, and to remove his apprehensions of the Company's placing him in the same situation as the Nabob Mobareck ul Dowla. He one day expressed himself to me on this head in very strong terms. I assured his Excellency nothing of the kind was intended; I recommended it to him on no account to credit reports of this nature, and intreated him to withhold his confidence from persons who might endeavour by such insidious representations to alarm his mind. He had always, I added, received strong proofs of the respect and regard you personally entertain for him; and the steadiness of his conduct had tended to confirm and perpetuate the friendship and alliance subsisting between his Excellency and the honourable Company. I beg leave, before I conclude this head, to inform you, an opinion had prevailed of there being divisions in the Councils of your government. I hope I have done my duty in representing, both to the Vizier and the ministers, that the whole is a palpable falsehood. It has been my study to render as public as possible my testimony of unanimity in the members of administration, that the shadow of a hope of evading or protracting the execution of your measures may not exist.

Agreeable to your commands, I sounded Hyder Beg Cawn, and am convinced it is still his wish to establish the Nabob's claim of the resumption of the assignments. This measure would, he conceives, unite upon a firmer footing the authority he has hitherto possessed, both on the part of the Vizier, and the honourable Company. He grounds this claim upon the pretence of relieving the Company from the embarrassment attending the present system of detail in the management of the business. I have been asked by Hyder Beg Cawn, in the name of the Nabob, if it would be possible to induce you to consent to a change; he informed me of the particulars which had passed between Major Palmer and him on the subject, and mentioned the encouragement you had given to the proposition; insinuating from thence, that you might not be averse to it. I could only answer, that you were in every respect disposed to comply with the Vizier's requisitions. I could not speak upon this subject, having no instructions to enter into the consideration of a point of so much importance, and therefore the present system must be continued. When I asked his opinion, his only reply was, that he had expressed the Nabob's pleasure. I frankly told him, that I must consider every measure proposed by the Nabob as originating with him. This produced the strongest professions of attachment to you and the Company, and a declaration that all modes were the same to him, and that

Digitized by Google

that he would yield implicit obedience to your commands. This paſſed above a month ago; and the propoſition not having been repeated to me, I conclude it has dropped, and Hyder Beg Cawn will be cautious of renewing it.

Does not require an anſwer.

The confidence with which you have honoured me will ever make me cautious in the uſe of this power. The tranſactions at Furruckabad, and the continuance of the detachments of the honourable Company's troops, are the only inſtances in which I may be ſaid to have exerted it. With reſpect to Furruckabad, I was ſolicited by Muzuffer Jung to interfere between him and the Nabob, which I declined; and as I gave no advice, I hope my continuing the regiment, in compliance with the Vizier's urgent requeſt, will not be interpreted into an extenſion of your orders. Muzzuffer Jung's ſolicitations are ſtill continued to me: I have anſwered, in general terms, that if my interference would tend to accommodate and conciliate differences, I ſhould be happy to give it. My letter to the Board of the firſt inſtant will explain the motives of my conduct, both in regard to this matter, and the meaſure of continuing the detachments.

I have the honour to be, with the greateſt reſpect,
Lucknow, Honourable Sir,
the 12th December 1782. Your moſt obedient
humble ſervant,
(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

A true Copy.
E. Hay,
Actg. Secy. to the Secret Dept.

Extract from Mr. Middleton's General Letter of the 23d October 1782.

The moſt material object I have to claim your attention to, is the collateral agreement concluded by me, on behalf of the Honourable the Governor General and Council, with the Houſe of Gopaul Doſs Saw and others, for their ſecurity and reimburſement in the advance they were prevailed upon to make the Vizier, upon the credit and faith of this office, for the liquidation of his Excellency's debts to the Company; and, and which ſubject you will find ſtated in my addreſs to the Board of the 7th ultimo.

The advance for which the Houſe of Gopaul Doſs ſingly and excluſively engaged, was 26,00,000 Rupees, which included the balance of the Vizier's account current with the honourable Company, as it ſtood before the additional claim lately made by the Accountant General at the preſidency and ſundry army debts of his Excellency's, for which, as they

Digitized by Google

they were an excess upon the original estimate, formed at the commencement of the year, no provision had been made. The other sum of 26,00,000, for which teeps were granted in partnerships by Gopaul Doss, Butch Roaje, Fukeer Chund, and Kissen Chund, payable by installments, as expressed in the teeps, was intended as a deposit in the hands of the honourable Governor General and Council, for the liquidation of such part of the additional claim 26,48,571. 3. 8. made out by the Accountant General, and transmitted to this office in October last, as the Board, after taking into consideration the counter claims and expectations of the Vizier, should deem equitable. For further information on this head, permit me to refer you to the contents of my address to the honourable Board of the 7th September, to which I have received no reply. But both these sums, the Vizier has passed his separate obligations to the respective parties, and has granted assignments upon his revenue for the re-payment. But this alone, Sir, would have gone very little way towards inducing the Shroffs to hazard so large a property in the Nabob's funds, had not the faith of our government also been pledged for their collateral security; which has been done by the strongest verbal assurances it was in my power to give them in my official capacity; and in the case of Gopaul Doss Saw, who is much deeper engaged than any of the others, a written engagement, to support him to the utmost of my power in the recovery of his debt, for which Almass Ally Cawn stands immediately and exclusively responsible. He has already paid him to the amount of nine lacks, promising four more in the course of fifteen or twenty days; and the remaining thirteen lacks he agrees to make good in equal kists in the ensuing three months of Auhun, Poose, and Maug; which I have not a doubt of his punctually fulfilling, if you think proper to confirm the assurances I have given, and yield your influence to the support of them, which I persuade myself you will see the propriety of, as well from a principle of common justice, as an inducement to similar future exertions, should the exigency of the honourable Company's affairs at any time call for them. The other advance of twenty-six lacks being secured by assignments upon reputable Aumils, I have little fear of its being realized, without giving you any further trouble than that of giving your sanction to the measure, and occasionally making use of the influence of your station to expedite the payment of the Kists, when the Aumils may shew a disposition to be tardy.

I must beg leave to refer you to my correspondence with the honourable the Governor General, for a full account of the origin and nature of my transactions with the Begums at Fyzabad; and the letters which have passed be-

tween

Digitized by Google

tween me and the officers who have severally commanded there, will severally shew you the progress and present state of that business. The balance due from the Bow Begum, upon her agreement made in January last, after allowing her credit for the trifling articles lately sent here by Major Gilpin, will be about five lacks; which, I apprehend, may be realized, if you deem it expedient to continue the restraints which have been imposed for that purpose. She had, indeed, given Major Gilpin the most satisfactory assurances of an immediate liquidation of this long-depending account, in which I believe she was sincere: but, probably from an expectation of a change of measures upon my removal, she has lately retracted those assurances, and now declares her determination to make no further payments whatever, but upon the certainty of her Jagheer being restored to her; which I could give her no hopes of as the propriety of its resumption has been sanctified by the approbation of the honourable the Governor General, who further expressly enjoined me, in his instructions of the 27th January, to exert my influence with the Nabob to prevent the conclusion of any final settlement between him and the Begums, until I should be furnished with instructions from him or the Board on that head. Not having, since the above date, received any directions from the Board or the Governor General relative to the Begums, I know not what may be their wishes in regard to them; but I thought it, at all events, my duty, conformably to the spirit of the orders I had received, to retain possession of the Kellah at Fyzabad, and the persons of the Bow Begums two principal eunuchs, until the sum she had stipulated to pay was fully liquidated, or the honourable Board should notify their further pleasure. And in this state, Sir, I commit the business to your fufure direction, expressing my sincere wish that you may find means to effect the recovery of this balance; which among other balances originally constituted a part of the securities made over to Gopaul Doss, for the re-payment of his advance to the Vizier for the Company's use, and should, I apprehend, if possible, be realized for Almass Ally Cawn, who has employed his own credit, upon the faith of those funds, for the immediate satisfaction of Gopaul Doss's debt.

Accompanying, you will be pleased to receive a list of the claims for the services of the current year, together with the assignments which have been granted me for the liquidation of them, amounting to rupees 67,31,578. I did not take assignments for the maintenance of the four additional regiments, which I recommended to have appointed for the service of the Vizier's collections, as I knew not how far the honourable Board might be disposed to agree to the pro-

position;

Digitized by Google

poſition; and ſecondly, becauſe the miniſters have engaged that the charge of ſuch an eſtabliſhment, if granted, ſhould be defrayed from the further reductions which might in conſequence take place in the Nabob's preſent military expences. If, as the Nabob ſeems to expect, the counter claims before alluded to ſhould be admitted and credit given his Excellency for the expence of Abdul Rehman's corps acting with General Goddard (on which ſubject you will find a letter from me to the honourable the Governor Generall, under date the 9th September) the aſſignments obtained will conſiderably exceed the amount claim; and his Excellency was very preſſing with me to with-hold taking aſſignments for the balance of 14,00,000, and the annual charge of Rahman's corps, until the honourable Board ſhould have conſidered, and decided upon his expectations; but I thought it neceſſary, at all events, for the preſent to be guided in my demands by the liſt of of claims, as they now ſtand, without reference to what may be the determination of the Board: as it is always much eaſier to relinquiſh ſuperfluous aſſignments, than to obtain additional ones, you will obſerve I have included in the public claims the Nabob's debt to Mr. Fraſer, in conſequence of orders I received from the honourable the Governor General for that purpoſe. The bonds are lodged in the office.

A true extract, as received from Mr. Briſtow.

E. HAY.

Acting Secretary to the Secret Department.

The Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General, and the Members of the Supreme Council, at Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

Agreeable to the accompanying liſt, I have the honour to encloſe complete ſtatements of the Vizier's receipts and diſburſements. Upon a ſcrutiny into the particulars, I am perſuaded great ſavings may be made in the Motayenna; a large proportion of the charges under this head can only be conſidered as penſions. The number of 13,152 cavalry, and 48,715 infantry, do not exiſt; and it becomes a matter of the higheſt importance to the Vizier's affairs to regulate ſo evident an abuſe. Ever ſince I took charge of my office, I have given uninterrupted attention to the obtaining the beſt information of the nature of the Motayenna, and the means of retrenching ſo uſeleſs an eſtabliſhment; I have alſo made it my ſtudy to aſcertain the corps which really exiſt, and may be called upon ſervice in caſe the peace of the Vizier's dominions ſhould be interrupted, either by inteſtine commotions, or invaſion by an enemy.

I am

Digitized by Google

I am sorry to inform you that, by every enquiry I have been able to make, it does not appear the Vizier could assemble an army of ten thousand men. The whole are many months in arrears; there is neither ammunition nor stores of any kind ready to equip troops for service; and the late tumults and insurrections of Zemindars prove the Motayenna unequal to the preserving the police of the country, much less able to act against a foreign enemy.

The Vizier can look to the Honourable Company only for the establishing his authority, and restoring his dominions to their former flourishing state. Agreeable to the stipulations in the treaty of Chunar, none but regular establishments were to be kept by the Vizier; and I shall now submit to your consideration the plans which I think it my duty to recommend to the Vizier, and that they should be executed with as much expedition as the state of affairs will admit.

The Turk Sewars have been distinguished for gallantry and good conduct on many occasions. The officers of this corps are principally men who were originally in the Company's service, and are more accustomed to subordination than any other of the Vizier's troops. There are eight months arrears due to them, and as they appeared to me the fittest to be attached to the brigade in case service should occur, I have procured an assignment in their favour for nine lacks of rupees, the amount to be paid at Lucknow, and distributed to the men by proper paymasters, free of deductions, and in specie, as a gross abuse has often prevailed in paying them in goods instead of money. This corps being likewise on the spot, the Vizier may in person review and muster them, in which I propose having the honour to attend him. The state of their horses, arms, and accoutrements, may be minutely examined. Most probably a considerable reduction will take place of the men unfit for service, and in the establishments, as upon the certainty of regular payment in future, the rate of fifty rupees per month for every private trooper, is considerably above what they can fairly claim, and the establishments are loaded with supernumery officers.

The gallant conduct of the Russaulah under the command of Abdul Rehman Cawn, now acting with Colonel Charles Morgan, and the encouragement given to that corps by your honourable Board, have led me to exert my endeavours in favour of his brother Mahomed Saaud Cawn, who commands three hundred and twenty-one of the Vizier's cavalry. I have procured certain funds for the payment of his corps, and shall strongly recommend it to the Vizier, to withdraw the detachments of his Russaulah from the interior parts of the country, collect it in force at Lucknow, and issue the pay upon the plan proposed with respect to the Turk Sewars.

I shall,

Digitized by Google

I ſhall, without further delay, adviſe the Vizier to aboliſh the practice of detaching troops in ſmall bodies, which you will obſerve by the ſtatement of the Motayenna, to have been carried ſo low as one in number. Whatever may be required in one diſtrict, ought to be compoſed of one corps. The Ruſſaulahs may be reduced to one or two hundred. This will ſecure many advantages, particularly in the caſe of defection, where an individual quitting the ſervice with ſo inconſiderable a force, will be of little conſequence, and his place be eaſily ſupplied.

I muſt intreat your indulgence in regard to the immediate execution of the honourable Governor General's commands of the 23d September 1781, directing that the Vizier ſhould be adviſed to aboliſh the ſyſtem of aſſignments to his Motayenna. It may doubtleſs be gradually introduced; but if it were to be undertaken at the preſent time that ſuch conſiderable arrears are due to the troops, it would, in my opinion, create a general ſpirit of diſcontent and mutiny, becauſe they look to the aſſignments as the ſecurity for their pay; and I cannot deviſe any alternative that would ſatisfy them: When muſters may be taken, and the eſtabliſhments reduced to one general ſyſtem, it may then be ſafely executed. I hope, upon examination of the perplexed ſtate of the buſineſs, it will not be thought unreaſonable that I ſhould ſtate a delay of ſome months, probably the end of the year, as required, before his Excellency will be able totally to aboliſh the ſyſtem of aſſignments. In ſuch inſtances, where it can immediately be executed, I ſhall exert my utmoſt endeavours to perſuade the Vizier no longer to poſtpone ſo neceſſary a meaſure.

It is out of my power at preſent to explain the particulars of the propoſed reductions. Unleſs the Vizier acts directly in the buſineſs, by making the circuit of ſuch diſtricts as are the moſt deſerving his attention, and deputing confidential agents to the remainder, the evil would be a long time before it could be completely remedied. I ſhall in the courſe of the execution of my duty, meet with great oppoſition in the miſrepreſentations of the perſons intereſted againſt the reform. I hope the advantages to be derived from it will appear ſo evident to his Excellency, that he will not only ſincerely and heartily aſſent to the meaſure, but ſupport it by every exertion of his authority.

I have reaſon to believe all the accounts of the Motayenna, as well as other expences attending the Vizier's government, have not yet been furniſhed me. If, after enquiry, any omiſſions ſhould have been made, or charges incurred on the ſame account twice inſerted, I ſhall ſubmit the particulars to your conſideration.

I beg leave to inform you, the allowances on account the Jaghyres

Digitized by Google

Jaghyres and Tuncaws were recorded upon the Vizier's books at the following annual amount:

The Jaghyres — —	39,38,054	4	6
The Tuncaws — —	17,19,610	—	—
	56,57,664	4	6
The propofed allowance on account the Tuncaws, as per ftatement, No. 1	10,25,214	12	—
The propofed allowance on account the Jaghyres, as per ftatement, No. 2	22,68,671	—	—
	32,93,885	12	—
Reduction per annum — Rupees	23,63,779	8	6

Even in the prefent reduced ftate the amount is very high; but, confidering the perfons to whom they are granted, being principally the Vizier's relations, the old dependents of his family, or the fervants of government, it would be difficult to make further reductions, particularly as moft of them were perfons living in great affluence, and now depending folely upon the bounty of the Vizier for fubfiftence. The funds for the payment of thefe allowances can only be procured by the favings and reductions of ufelefs and unneceffary expences. In all arrangements, however, the Vizier's perfonal charges, the army, and the honourable Company's claims, will be firft provided for.

The honourable the Governor General, in his inftructions at Chunargur, dated the 23d Sept. 1781, directed the late Refident to carry into execution the ftipulation the Vizier had entered into for the regulation of his perfonal expences: no meafures have yet been taken in this bufinefs; and I now beg leave to fubmit to your confideration the heads of the plan, which I recommended to the Vizier; viz.

1ft. That the fums appropriated for defraying the wages and allowances of the Vizier's fervants, and the departments of his houfehold, fhould be depofited under charge of a Treafurer.

2d. That the monthly expence of the Vizier's fervants and the departments of his houfehold fhould be fixed, and paid by the faid Treafurer, without fee or deduction.

3d. That no monies fhould be iffued except by the Vizier's warrant, and the official atteftations of the acting Minifter.

4thly

4th. That persons holding the great offices of the Vizier's household shall not be entrusted with other employments, or be farmers of or any way concerned in the collection of the revenues.

In explanation of the first head, I beg leave to inform you, the Vizier's servants have constantly suffered great distress from the irregular payment of their wages and allowances. Arrears of many months are due to the greatest part of them; a few only have received their right; and they are principally the persons at the head of the departments. Money is often procured with difficulty for the stables, kitchen, elephants, buildings, and other current disbursements. The acting minister asserts, that the sum of forty-nine lacks was last year appropriated to the Vizier's expences; out of this were paid not only the charges of his household, but part of the allowances to his Excellency's relations, compensations to persons whose Jaghyres were resumed, and also pensions to the dependants of the Vizier's family, many of which originated in the reign of the late Nabob Sujah Ul Dowlah. In proposing that the funds on account of the Vizier's household "shall be deposited under charge of a Treasurer," I mean in a public chest, agreeable to the Honourable Governor General's instructions, and that one key should be kept by the Treasurer, and one by the acting minister, or any great officer of state to whom you may direct me to advise the Vizier to intrust so important a charge.

The second head entirely conforms to the Honourable the Governor General's instructions, and needs no explanation. On the third head I would submit it to your consideration, whether an officer in the character of an Aumeen should not be appointed to see the establishments were not encroached upon; and on his stating objections, that payments might be stopped until the Vizier's pleasure should be known; and if his Excellency, on consideration, repeats his orders for his warrant passing the Treasury, it should then become valid.

The evil which the fourth head proposes to correct, is the principal cause of the mal-administration of the affairs of the Vizier's household; the same men being farmers of revenues, aumils, and superintendants of departments about his Excellency's person, make a confusion of accounts, and give them an opportunity of withholding payment, and often appropriating the funds to the support of expences, which are not to be considered as requiring the first supplies; for instance, I think buildings, matters which relate merely to state, such as Kelaats, &c. should be provided for after the payment of the servants wages, the kitch-

Digitized by Google

en, ſtables, and other particulars, which may be ſtated in the light of neceſſaries.

This is the outline of the plan I have propoſed for the regulating the Vizier's houſehold; and I entertain great hopes, that from a leſs ſum than has hitherto been appropriated on that account, every department will be amply furniſhed; probably a ſaving will accumulate at the end of the year, from the mode of iſſuing the diſburſements, now eſtimated at the ſum of thirty-two lacks of Rupees.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Lucknow, (Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
21ſt January 1783, Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

A true Copy.
E. Hay,
Actg. Secy. to the Secret Dept.

To the Honourable Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, Governor General.

Honourable Sir,

The reduction of Almaſs Ally Khawn's power is an object conſtantly preſent to my view; and I beg leave to ſtate the outlines of my plan.

I propoſe he ſhould remain in charge of the diſtricts he now farms until the concluſion of the year, when his diſmiſſion will be followed with leaſt danger and loſs of revenue. Inſtead of granting the province of Etawah to one man, I recommend it ſhould be given to three at leaſt. Corah, Jagdiſpore, &c. may in the ſame manner be divided amongſt a number, and the troops ſtationed with the new Aumils ſhall hereafter receive their pay in ready money; and the ſyſtem of aſſignments be aboliſhed, agreeable to your inſtructions.

In executing a meaſure of ſo much importance, the aſſiſtance of the honourable Company's troops will be required, and I muſt ſolicit your inſtructions on this head. I ſubmit to your conſideration, that the two armies in the Vizier's dominions may be ſtationed at the places moſt convenient for preventing any aſſiſtance being given to Almaſs by foreign powers; as alſo to oppoſe the junction of his own troops, which will probably be ſcattered about the country in collecting the revenues. It is, in my opinion, not adviſeable at the preſent juncture to form any determination with regard to the ſtations, as they muſt be fixed according to circumſtances.

I ſhall furniſh both Colonels Morgan and Sir John Cummings with particular information of my plan, and the ſituation of Almaſs Ally Khawn.

Detachments from the honourable Company's troops will be required, to eſtabliſh the authority of the new Au-

Digitized by Google

mils. I beg leave to ask your permission, that I may apply to the commanding officers to furnish any number above what they may deem necessary to ensure the safety of the two armies in the field, and likewise act offensively, if the state of affairs should render it necessary. I beg also to be informed what force you may think proper to spare for this service from Chunar Ghurr.

In your letter of instructions, under date the 23d September 1781, you observe, "That it would be better if "the Mootayna could be brought to consist only of caval-"ry, leaving no infantry in the Nabob's service but what "may be necessary for his body guard; and to supply the "deficiency, should any occur from such arrangement, our "infantry may be employed when infantry are wanted."

To carry this plan into execution, I must consider the detachments, ordered to support the new Aumils, will be hereafter rendered permanent commands. It will be probable that additional infantry must be raised, because a considerable body will be lost by the defection of Almass. I beg leave to request that you will view the extent of country now farmed by him, and reflect how impossible it will be to awe the Zemindars (every one of whom almost has his fort) without a considerable force in infantry. The service of the collections must be conducted either by means of the above-mentioned detachments from the honourable Company's troops, or by your agreeing to the Vizier's raising battalions of infantry, sepoys, or matchlock men to supply the place of Almass's troops.

I have urgently solicited funds to be appropriated to the regular payment of the Vizier's cavalry. This business being in a certain train, I think I may safely assure you of the firm and steady attachment of the Turksawers and Russaulah, under the command of Mahomed Saud Khawn, the brother of Abdul Bimaun Khawn, who is now acting with Colonel Charles Morgan at Bombay: a part may be attached to such of the armies. I shall observe the same conduct towards the other corps in the Vizier's service.—These are the outlines of my plan; the particulars of which will follow in good time to receive your approbation, previous to its being carried into execution.

It now remains for me to carry conviction to your mind of my having obeyed your commands with regard to Almass Ally Cawn, in the fullest extent which the situation of affairs would admit. In the course of my representations I must intreat your indulgence, for intruding upon your attention a repetition of many facts, which may already have been submitted to your judgment. Suppose I had, upon my arrival, advised his being dispossessed of all trust under this government; the next consideration would have been to supply

supply his place. I was new in the business, and ignorant how far I could depend upon a defection of Almass Ally Khawn's people. I had no agents ready, and could not rely on the assistance of the acting Minister, though I will do him the justice to say he proffered his services. He was dilatory in the settlement of affairs then in agitation, and from his measures and conduct since, I am confident he would not have had the means of seconding me; and therefore I did not explain your intentions, further than was necessary for depriving Almass of the additional districts. Proper persons for the farm of such extensive countries could not have been procured in haste; had I however succeeded in this point, a force would have been required to support the new Aumils; Almass Ally Khawn would probably, under the circumstances which then existed, have preserved the attachment of his followers; and the army under his command, though paid by the Vizier, would have openly rebelled. We should have experienced commotions in Owde, where his Excellency's military were already so weak that no less than three regiments had been detatched from the brigade at Cawnpore, besides a regiment from Chunar Ghurr*. Troops could not therefore have been drawn from Owde, without exposing that province to a renewal of the late commotions.

It next occurs to state to you the means Almass Ally Khawn possessed, of withdrawing himself from the Vizier's authority, with those in our hands of opposing any such attempts.

Almass had an army of above twelve thousand horse and foot, as allowed him by the Vizier, among which are six battalions of Sepoys, exclusive of which he has Sebundy, or irregulars, entertained by his own authority, of at least an equal number, which he could have dispersed upon marauding parties about the country. He had treasure, stores, and ammunition, with the fort of Coder Cote, which he has rendered as strong as possible, by the skill of a native. On the other hand I received charge of my office with an empty treasury,

* *Particulars of Detachment.*

1 *Regiment at Kyrabad.*
1 *at Ferrachabad.*
1. { 1 *Battalion at Feezabad.*
    1 *Ditto at Salone.*

From Chunar.

1. { 1 *Battalion at Salone.*
    1 *Ditto at Allabahad.*

treasury, and the burthen of a heavy debt*; under these circumstances it would have been impossible to borrow money, and the principal resource in my hands was from Almass Ally Khawn †, the very man against whom I was to engage. At the time of my arrival, the detachment under the command of Colonel Sir John Cumming had only reached Allahabad, and could not act for want of store boats, which were not come up. The brigade at Cawnpore, consisting only of two regiments of Sepoys, and a weak regiment of Europeans, was in fact, all the military aid on which I could depend; and I submit to your consideration whether it was in any respect equal to the service.

The only mode which occurred to me of reducing Almass Ally Cawn's power was by seizing his person; and this, with the assistance of the regiment at Lucknow, and my own guard, I could most certainly have effected. I beg you will consider that he returned to Lucknow under a positive engagement of personal safety; the measure therefore would have been considered an act of treachery disgraceful to our nation, and destructive of all confidence in our faith in any future negociations. Your instructions of the 23d October also peremptorily forbid any such conduct, in the following words; viz. "I cannot prescribe the means;— "but to guard against that obloquy to which I may be exposed by a forced misconstruction of this order, by "those who may be hereafter employed in searching our "records for cavils and informations against me, I think it "proper to forbid and protest against the use of any fraudulent artifice or treachery to accomplish the end which "I have prescribed."

Almass Ally Khawn has ever since my arrival professed obedience, but his conduct is in direct contradiction. In one instance I was under the necessity of obtaining orders from the Vizier to direct his rendering justice to a man who had been oppressed; one motive for my interference was to make a trial of his disposition. He refused compliance, and none of his Naibs will obey any injunction, unless it is accompanied by a counter order from him. Colonel Sir John Comming transmitted the Vizier's Shoka to Almass, on the subject of the interruption of the Dawks, information of which I communicated to you under date the 3d instant. The enclosed letter will inform you of the result of Colonel Cummings's inquiry;—that Almass's people were the offenders. He has not taken any steps towards punishing them, or even answered the Vizier. The matter

* *Vide my address to you of the* 12*th instant, in answer to your instructions under the head of balance and assignments.*

† *The assignment on him is for twenty-seven lacks of rupees.*

remains

Digitized by Google

remains in the same state for the present. Almass is now in Jagdispore, employed in settling that district. He has been left to follow his own measures in the management of his affairs; and without any intimation of his attendance being necessary at Lucknow, his Vakeel almost daily represents to me that he will certainly come, as soon as he can conclude the business in which he is engaged. I then propose questioning him about the interruption of the Dawks, and shall endeavour to make him give satisfaction on this head, which it is probable he will evade doing.

I am employed in tracing the connection Almass Ally Cawn's people may have with the persons about this court, and I entertain great hopes that a part of his troops may leave him, on the declaration of the Vizier's determination to dismiss him from his employments.

The call of assistance for the honourable Company's troops will be proportionable to the success I may meet with in this point; and I have at this early period asked your instructions, that I may be fully informed of the means granted me to discharge my duty. It would be an imprudent measure to attempt the reduction of Almass Ally Khawn's power, until proper persons may be, upon his dismission, prepared to take immediate charge of his districts, and troops upon the spot, to support their authority.

I shall not communicate my intended plan to the Minister, or any other person, until, I may receive your final instructions upon it.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Honourable Sir,

Lucknow, Your most obedient

30th Dec. 1782. Humble servant,

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,

A true copy. Resident at the Vizier's court.

E. Hay,

Acting Secretary to the Secret Department.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esquire, Governor General, &c. &c.

Honourable Sir,

I now beg leave to inform you of my transactions in the execution of your orders relative to the institution of public offices. I have met with great opposition; but as your commands left me no discretion, and a strict obedience became my indispensable duty, I deferred addressing you until I could state the matter in a clear point of view.

The funds allotted for the Vizier's personal expences were administered in a most shameful manner; for not-

Digitized by Google

withſtanding the large ſums hitherto appropriated on this account, you will doubtleſs have been adviſed, from the report of every individual who has reſided in this country, as well as from my communications to you, of the diſtreſs in the Vizier's houſehold, particular department having been left totally unprovided for, and the ſervants kept many months in arrears. In my opinion thirty-two lacks, the ſum fixed at his Excellency's particular requeſt, is much more than can be fairly expended; but it was urged to me, that the reſumption of the Jaghyrs, and reduction of penſions might cauſe great diſtreſs; and it would be pleaſing to the Vizier to have the means of providing for part of his family and dependants intruſted to his own bounty; and further, that forty-nine lacks had laſt year been left at his Excellency's diſpoſal, and the difference amounting to ſeventeen lacks, was in itſelf a conſiderable reduction.

I had furniſhed Hyder Beg Cawn above two months ſince with the plans, and entertained hopes that by his addreſs and influence with the Vizier I might avoid the oppoſition that a public declaration of your intentions would create. Above a month elapſed, during which time no progreſs was made in the buſineſs.

The fact is, whilſt the revenues were managed ſolely by Hyder Beg Khawn, he held in his own perſon the offices of collection and Treaſury. The Vizier was, on all occaſions, compelled to apply to him for the daily ſupply of the current diſburſements of his houſehold. The Nabob had thus become entirely dependent upon his Miniſter, and a dangerous influence was aſſumed over his Excellency's mind. He was compelled to ſpeak the ſentiments of his Miniſter, or expoſed to the danger of having his income withheld. Hyder Beg Cawn diſclaims holding any controul in theſe matters; but this is an aſſertion without proof, as I may ſafely affirm that he has hitherto had the entire diſpoſal of the Vizier's treaſures.

Had the immenſe ſums appropriated to the Vizier's perſonal expences been applied to any uſeful public ſervice, either in a proviſion for his family, in penſions to deſerving ſervants of the Government, or to the pay of any part of the army, I ſhould not be ſo anxious to repreſent the neceſſity of a reform. The whole is diſſipated among the Orderlies, a ſet of men of low birth, and no pretenſions, who are a burthen to the ſtate, living in affluence, whilſt the army, and every uſeful members of ſociety, are left in want of the neceſſaries of life. A ſtriking inſtance of the peculation that exiſts in the Vizier's perſonal expences has occurred within theſe few days in Jao Lall, the ſuperintendant of his buildings, who has promiſed a payment of ſixty-three thouſand rupees to the Vizier for frauds committed in his

Digitized by Google

his office. His Excellency is at this time employed in a ſcrutiny of a ſimilar nature into the accounts of every ſuperintendant in the different departments, from each of whom he will moſt probably exact reſtitution—and, as uſual receive the offender again into favour.

I was told by Hyder Beg Cawn, the Vizier preremptorily rejected my propoſitions, pleading that he ſhould no longer be an independant Sovereign, if the Company's agents interferered in his perſonal expences. This anſwer was repeatedly returned through different perſons whom his Excellency ſelected to convey his ſentiment to me. Hyder Beg Cawn charges me with employing agents with the Vizier, which cauſed the loſs of his authority, and occaſioned his failure in the points I had recommended.—I returned anſwers to all his Excellency's meſſages, but I never employed any perſons on my own behalf. The ſubſtance of my repreſentations was uniformly the ſame, that I only had in view the proſperity of his affairs, which could not be effected by any other means than eſtabliſhing regularity in the adminiſtration of his finances, and in this I would conſult his pleaſure. I objected to any mediation, and requeſted the matter might be debated by the Nabob and myſelf; I maintained that your intentions had been miſrepreſented to him, that it was your wiſh his income ſhould be entirely at his own diſpoſal, and not ſquandered away without his knowledge or aſſent. In conformity thereto I recommend a Treaſurer and a Muſhruff for the department of his houſehold; and that the revenues, as collected, ſhould be paid into a public cheſt, from whence the diſburſements ſhould be iſſued agreeable to his own warrants; but upon the preſent ſyſtem his treaſure was appropriated to purpoſes he never intended; that general diſtreſs had prevailed, and muſt continue till regularity ſhould be eſtabliſhed. When the Treaſurer for the houſehold was firſt propoſed, I recommended that Rajah Tipper Chund ſhould hold the office. Hyder Beg Khawn objected, upon the plea of his being in a declared oppoſition to him, and that his appointment would in fact be depriving him of the Niabut. I yielded to his objections, declaring it a matter of indifference to me who the man might be, ſo that a Treaſurer were appointed. The Nabob afterwards, in an interview with me, of himſelf propoſed Tipper Chund, of which I informed the Miniſter; who then affected to have conquered his objections, provided I would give him aſſurances of ſupport: I acquieſced, and took it for granted all difficulties were adjuſted; but to my great ſurprize, the next time I paid my reſpects to the Vizier he had changed his mind, and would have no Treaſurer. Hyder Beg Khawn, after ſeveral days altercation, informed me the Vizier had at laſt

Digitized by Google

assented to the appointment of a Treasurer, but he now insisted that Tipper Chund should not be the man. I returned for answer, it was certainly in his Excellency's breast to appoint whom he pleased; and a banker of the name of Dooarkar Dofs was the person he finally nominated to the office. The intended Mushruf, Fakour Dofs, is a dependant of his Excellency's government, and a person whom I have no knowledge of, except by character.

When Tipper Chund was set aside, the Vizier informed me he had no objection to my having minute accounts of his disbursements, only he wished to preserve his dignity, and appoint his own servants. He considered Tipper Chund already in the charge of the office of military Paymaster General, and it was not his pleasure to make him Treasurer of the household. I am persuaded these reasons could only have been suggested by Hyder Beg Khawn, as the Vizier had privately sent messages to Tipper Chund, information of which he himself communicated to me, requesting he would undertake the office.

I readily agreed to the nomination of Dooarchar Dofs, that the Vizier might be convinced there was no design, concealed under a specious appearance, of leading him into a dependance on the Company's agents for the funds of his household. In regard to Tipper Chund, he certainly holds the appointment of Military Paymaster General, but Hyder Beg Khawn has hitherto possessed the actual powers of that office, and the accounts are prepared by his agents.

I made a very fair trial of Hyder Beg Khawn's disposition. The plan of your new system was left upwards of a month in his possession, without my once touching upon the subject with the Vizier, during which time he amused me with daily hopes of obtaining his Excellency's approbation. When I at length experienced his disinclination to move in the business, my only alternative was to insist on a compliance, which suggested the idea to Hyder Beg Khawn, that he had lost his influence, of which he took advantage to make excuses for further delays. It was his advice to me to hold very peremptory language to the Vizier; but this I declined, as I did not chuse to incur his Excellency's displeasure, and thus establish a confidence in Hyder Beg Khawn's attachment upon the ruin of my own influence. I was directed, and my own inclination prompted me to treat the Nabob with the highest respect. His disposition was well known to me; and I was sensible, if it should be necessary, that I could conduct the business without agents or mediators. I wished the act might appear voluntary on the part of the Vizier, and his consequence and authority be preserved entire in the eyes of the natives. The fact in my opinion is, that Hyder Beg Cawn, sensible the institu-

tion

Digitized by Google

tion of offices will check and controul his conduct, has purposely protracted the business, in the hope that an appeal to you might move a change.

In proof of his wish to protract the business, he repeatedly advised me to appoint my own Moonshey to the office of Treasurer; which I deemed a measure highly improper; and he must have been sensible of it himself. I declined suffering any of my own servants or dependants to hold offices of trust and emolument.

The necessary orders are issued to put the Treasurer of the household in charge of his office, upon the plan proposed in the enclosed letter to Hyder Beg Khawn. The appearance of the Vizier's dignity and authority is preserved, and I will endeavour to see that the disbursements in future be made agreeable to your commands.

The Turk Sowars, though part of the best cavalry in the Vizier's service, have been most shamefully neglected: There are now ten months arrears of pay due to them; they would have mutinied, if it had not been for my interference. Three months are to be issued to-morrow, and the balance will be secured to them. Shortly after my arrival I solicited, out of an unappropriated balance of eleven lacks, set against Almass Ally Khawn, that nine lacks should be allotted for the support of the Turk Sowars; the minister, under various pretences, evaded compliance; at last the assignment was granted, and then it appeared that five out of the eleven lacks had been paid by Almass Ally Khawn, agreeable to prior orders, which he had received, and of which Hyder Beg Khawn never apprised me. I procured, all together, Six lacks and eight thousand rupees on Almass, and about two lacks on other Aumils. His Excellency remonstrated against this assignment going in my name; to which I answered, as I had uniformly done, that it was a matter of total indifference to me through whom the pay to the army was issued. I did not wish these people to be under my authority; and my having asked him for the assignments was the effect of necessity. I would readily relinquish them, upon the appointment of a proper officer: That in future the troops might be paid in money, agreeable to the commands with which you had been pleased to honour me. I have not scrupled being very explicit with Hyder Beg Khawn; and have now taken the liberty to submit, in the most unreserved manner, to your consideration, the particulars of my transactions with him on two of the most material points of your new system. I have given authority and consequence to Hyder Beg Khawn's office, and propose leaving him in the general controul of every other department. But as nothing can relieve the country from the distress

Digitized by Google

distress in which it is involved, but the most rigid execution of your orders, I shall not suffer them to be impeded by the intrigues of individuals however high in rank. I have, in obedience to your commands, employed Hyder Beg Khawn; his professions are fair; but until I determined on executing, by my own authority, the measures which the Vizier had rejected, I could not get any business of importance settled.

The conduct of Hyder Beg Khawn was to be expected. It can hardly be hoped that men should willingly become the instruments to reduce their own influence and advantages. I have endeavoured to impress upon his mind your unalterable determination of executing the new system, and he had to make the choice, whether to obey your commands, or expose himself to your displeasure.

You only can decide whether my suspicions of his secretly counteracting my representations are well founded: I considered a disunion between us as likely to affect the public business; especially as Khowje Ayin ul Dien and Almass Ally Khawn were upon the spot, and a continuation might have been formed between the three to interrupt the collections; I have therefore come to an accommodation with him; As the basis of it is implicit obedience to your orders, I hope no future cause of differences can arise. I shall on my part most cautiously avoid them.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect,

Lucknow, Honourable Sir,
the 4th March 1782. Your most obedient
Humble Servant,
(Signed) JOHN BISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

A true Copy.
E. Hay,
Act. Sec. to the Secret Dept.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esquire, Governor General, &c. Fort William.

Honourable Sir,

In addition to what I have urged in my address of this date to the Board, I hope I shall meet with your excuse for representing some further circumstances relative to the Begum.

I have experienced great embarrassment in treating with her, for, as the mother of the Vizier, the people look up to her with respect; and any harsh measures practised against women of her high rank create discontent, and affect our national character. Her conduct in withholding his Excellency's patrimony, and during the troubles at Benares, justly

justly lost her that attention and regard to which she would have been otherwise entitled: Still she is the mother of the Prince of the country; and the religious prejudices of Mussulmen prevail too strongly in their minds for them to forget her situation. Superior wisdom will guide your measures, and I shall willingly execute every order I may receive; but I think it my duty, and a tribute I owe to the confidence you have placed in me, freely and candidly to offer my sentiments on such subjects as from a near view may present difficulties that would not occur to persons at a distance.

I would recommend every persuasive argument might be urged to the Begum to induce her to fulfil her engagements. I would even endeavour to convince her that it was intended to renew the restraints upon her; but I really think it not adviseable to carry them into execution.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Lucknow, Honourable Sir,
31st March 1783. Your most obedient,
Humble servant,
(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

A true Copy.
E. Hay,
Acting Secy. to the Secret Dept.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esquire, Governor General, &c. Fort William.

Honourable Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, relative to Mr. Scott, and shall obey your commands.

Permit me to inform you, that I am employed in forming a plan of arrangements for the settlement of affairs for the next Fussullee year, in which your general instructions have been my sole rule. I hope you will have every reason to be satisfied that œconomy and regularity may be introduced upon the proposed plan, and the Vizier's alliance rendered a permanent advantage to the honourable Company, and confirm the security of his Excellency's dominions.

I have attended particularly to your orders relative to ascertaining the value of the Goruckpore and Baraetch countries, for the purposes explained in the 9th head of your letter of the 23d of October. At the same time I shall transmit to you the character and description of the Vizier's Aumils, and every man employed under his government in

Digitized by Google

in any office of trust; as also communicate my transactions on matters which have not hitherto been explained.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,
Honourable Sir,
Your most obedient,
Humble servant,
(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Lucknow,
8th April 1783.

A true Copy.
E. Hay,
Actg. Secy. to the Secret Dept.

To John Bristow, Esquire, Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Sir,

Herewith I have the honour to deliver you the teeps mentioned in my Treasury account and public letter of this date, for 26,00,000, viz.

One Teep of Monseram, in behalf of Gopaul Doss, for 13,00,000, payable as follows:

In Baudon	1189	—	3,25,000	
Coaur	1190	—	3,25,000	
Cautic	—	—	3,25,000	
Gughur	—	—	3,25,000	
				13,00,000

One Teep in the name of Butchrage, Tucko Chund, and Kissen Chund, payable as follows:

In Baudon	1189	—	3,25,000
Coaur	1190	—	3,25,000
Cautic	—	—	3,25,000
Aughur	—	—	3,25,000

I have to inform you, that the first installment of the above Teeps has been paid and remitted to the honourable the Governor General and Council, as you will perceive by my Treasury account.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient,
Humble servant,
(Signed) N. MIDDLETON.

Lucknow,
23d October 1782.

A true Copy of that received
from Mr. Bristow.
E. Hay,
Acting Secretary to the Secret Department.

Translation

Tranflation of letter from Mr. Briftow to the Begum.

I have had the honour to receive your letters :—Whereas the profperity and welfare of the Vizier's affairs are the earneft wifh of the Governor General, I have, in obedience to my inftructions, reprefented to his Excellency that I fhould conform to his pleafure in whatever he might think proper to direct. I am happy to convey his commands, that Major Gilpin fhall, on the arrival of Affrien Ally Cawn, march from Fyzabad, and immediately releafe Bahar Ally Cawn and Soakur Ally Cawn. This meafure affords me the greater pleafure, as I am perfuaded, from the kind expreffions in your letters, of the regard you entertain for the Vizier, being dearer to you than life, that you will in future confult and cherifh his interefts.

It is probable the Vizier would have continued the reftraints upon your Excellency, if the Governor General had not, out of refpect for the ties which bind you, and from a natural benevolence of difpofition, given his affent. The ftrict alliance fubfifting between the Governor General and the Vizier will ever render an union of Councils and meafures the line of conduct of both governments. And it is a moft pleafing circumftance to me, to convey the Governor General's approbation of the reftoration of your Excellency to the dignity and confequence to which your high rank and birth juftly entitle you.

I beg leave to return my thanks for the fenfe you exprefs of the becoming conduct of Major Gilpin in the execution of his duty.

Permit me to remind your Excellency, that there is ftill a balance of above five lacks due, on account of your engagements; and as you promifed, immediately on the enlargement of your Eunuchs, to pay that fum, I hope you will excufe my folicitations and affurances, that by a compliance you will render a fervice both to the Vizier and the Company, whofe affairs at prefent require the affiftance of every pecuniary aid.

A true Tranflation.
(Signed) ROBERT GREGORY,
Affiftant at the Vizier's Court.

A true Copy.
E. Hay,
Actg. Secy. to the Secret Dept.

Tranflation of a letter from Mr. Briftow, to Hyder Beg Cawn, dated 20th Rubbee ul Awull.

For the better regulation of the Vizier's houfehold, I propofed to his Excellency, that he fhould direct the amount of the Dawaub affignment, &c. to be paid in fpecie at the Huzoor,

Digitized by Google

Huzoor, and appoint a Treasurer and Mushruff to take charge of it, and to make the disbursements regularly, agreeably to his Excellency's pleasure, and by his orders. His Excellency appointed Dewauskau Doss Treasurer, and Takoor Doss Mushruff of the household, and Raja Tipper Chund Paymaster of the Turksowars; which I was happy to acquiesce in, from my attachment to the Nabob: And the Nabob directs that the Treasurer should be placed under charge of his officers at Punjemehal, and that I should return the Shookas heretofore issued relative to the Turksowar Tuncaws. I conform to his Excellency's commands in both respects, that the Treasurer should be committed to the charge of his officers at Punjemahal. The Dawaub assignment, &c. to be publicly disbursed, agreeably to his Excellency's warrants, bearing his own signature, and the counter-sign of the minister, by the Treasurer Dowaukair Doss, and the knowledge of Mahomed Hussun, ostensible Mushruff, with the consent of Takoor Doss. That Rajah Tipper Chund should disburse from his Treasure the amount of the Turksowar assignments. 2d. That the Shokas heretofore issued relative to the above assignment, shall be sent back.

A true Translation.
(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
A true Copy. Resident at the Vizier's Court.
E. Hay,
Actg. Secy. to the Secret Dept.

To John Bristow, Esquire, Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 1st instant, inclosing the Vizier's order, and your letter to Almass, which I shall forward to him immediately.

This morning my Haircarrah returned from Kanaoge, and informed me, that Goorsahy's people were the offenders, and that he himself was gone to take a fort at Muhrimnagur.

As there is a considerable force belonging to Elmass in the Dooab, it is most probable they would assist his Naib Goorsahy, were I to attempt apprehending him. I could not therefore send less than a regiment with four guns on that service; such a measure might perhaps bring matters to extremities, and involve the Vizier's government in some difficulties. For this reason I shall defer executing the Vizier's orders till we know what steps Elmass will take, in consequence of your letter, and the Nabob's order to him. However, if the Vizier repeats his order, and you are of opinion that the measure is adviseable I will immediately detach

Digitized by Google

tach a force to apprehend the offender; though without cavalry I have little hope of succeeding in the attempt.

I am, Sir,

Camp at Futty Ghur, Your most obedt. hble servant,
3d December 1782. (Signed) JOHN CUMMING,
Colonel.

(A true Copy.)
John Bristow,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Extract of the Secret Proceedings of the Honourable the Governor General and Council, dated 19th May 1783.

The Governor General.

I beg leave to remind the board of the papers which I laid before them on the 21st April respecting the complaints preferred by the Nabob Vizier against Mr. Bristow. The facts as stated in these complaints, are certainly usurpations of the authority, and even of the sovereignty of the Nabob Vizier.

They are affirmed to have been justified by an appeal to my instructions; it therefore becomes me most particularly to endeavour to redress them, or to remove the grounds on which they are said to have produced; for which effect I do in the first place disavow having given him any instructions intended for such purposes; and in the second, I do, as it is my duty, move the Board to transmit to Mr. Bristow the papers containing the charges against him, to require him to reply to them. And in the mean time, if he shall have appointed any person or persons to the charge of the offices appertaining to the administration of the Nabob Vizier, that he do immediately revoke the appointments and confine himself solely to the charge of such affairs as appertain to the Company, in the department specially allotted to him, leaving to the Nabob Vizier the entire and uncontrouled management of his own concerns.

Messrs. Stables, Macpherson, and Wheler, deliver in their opinions as follow, upon the subject of the Governor General's minute entered on the proceedings of the 21st ultimo.

Mr. Stables.

I have read and attentively considered the letters from the Navaab Vizier and his minister Hyder Beg Cawn, referred to me in the Governor General's minute. Also the instructions to Mr. Bristow, read by the Governor General to the members of the Board, and his answers to them.

I am of opinion, than an exact translation of the several letters from the Vizier and his minister, authenticated by the

Digitized by Google

the proper officer of this Board, ſhould be ſent to Mr. Briſtow, and that he ſhould be called upon to anſwer to the charges againſt his conduct as our Miniſter at the Vizier's court.

In the letter from the Vizier to the Governor General, received the 28th March, he ſays, "If you are ſolicitous "to promote my proſperity, confer upon me diſcretional "power over my country, and for the payment of the mo- "nies due to the Company." In his 2d letter, he ſays, "If you will pleaſe, as a mark of your friendſhip, to re- "cal Mr. Briſtow and Mr. Cooper, and confer upon me "diſcretional authority for the management of my coun- "try, and for the payment of the Company's monies, &c."

The Miniſter in his letters, joins in the requeſt, and adds, "at the ſame time ſo far favour me, as to appoint me "from yourſelf to the management of affairs here."

The above quotations clearly point out to me the great object the Vizier has in view, aſſiſted by his Miniſter, in preferring their complaints to the Governor General to lay before the Board, againſt our Reſident and his deputy, and is a reaſon with me to have the complaints ſeriouſly enquired into by the Board.

In juſtice and candour to the Navaab Vizier, and his Miniſter, I think the Board ought explicitly to declare, that they cannot on any account comply with the Vizier's requeſt, to grant him diſcretional powers over his country, while ſuch heavy debts remain due to the Company. His Miniſter alſo ſhould be acquainted of this declaration.

The characters of the Navaab Vizier, and his Miniſter Hyder Beg Cawn, are clearly delineated in the 4th inſtruction from the communicated through the Governor General

* * * *

to Mr. Briſtow; and the high reſpect I have for the opinion of the Governor General, and the members of the Board, has great weight in guiding my judgment on this ſubject.

Mr. Macpherſon.

I have peruſed with great attention the the tranſlations of the Vizier's letters received the 28th March and 7th of April, and the tranſlations of the letters of his miniſter Hyder Beg Cawn, received the 3d and 28th March, and 7th April, addreſſed to the Governor General, and which he laid before the Board on the 21ſt April, for their conſideration and determination.

I have likewiſe referred to the Governor General's inſtructions to Mr. Briſtow, as our miniſter at the court of the Vizier, under date the 23d October laſt; and I have conſidered with particular attention the 4th and 5th article of the ſaid inſtructions, and the 17th, or concluding article.

I have

Digitized by Google

I have likewise perused Mr. Bristow's letter to the Governor General of the 12th of December, and his letter of the 4th of March, in which he states to the Governor General his transactions in the execution of his orders relative to the institution of public offices in the Vizier's government.

The Governor General in his minute, in which he introduces the Vizier's letters, and those of the Vizier's minister, states very properly the peculiar delicacy of the situation in which he stands, both with respect to the Nabob Vizier and Mr. Bristow, on an occasion like the present; and he wishes to follow the line which the members of the Board may recommend, rather than propose any resolutions to them on the subject of the complaints in the Vizier's letters.

It is my opinion, upon a principle of common justice, as well as from a regard to the Company's regulations, that copies of the Vizier's letters, and those of Hyder Beg Cawn, containing complaints against Mr. Bristow, should be immediately sent to him for his information, and to prepare his defence against the complaints.

But in the mean time, as the Governor General has very truly observed, in the 4th article of his instructions to the Resident, "That there can be no medium in the relation "between the resident and the minister; but either the resident must be the slave and vassal of the Minister, or the "minister be at the absolute devotion of the Resident:" And as the Vizier is confessedly under the influence of his minister, who can never consider that influence complete while the Resident has the power to check it; and as the Resident is now under heavy accusations, probably for a necessary exercise of that power; so it is evident that the authority of our government will stand in suspence, if it is not rendered ineffectual at the court of Oude, during these contentions between the acting Minister and our Resident.

The season of the collections in the upper revenues, and the particular situation of this government at present, being in deep arrears to the army, with an empty treasury, and no prospect of resources for some months to come, unless from Oude, render any counteraction to the influence of our government in that quarter full of public consequences.

To counteract those consequences, and to remove possible grounds of misconception between Hyder Beg Khawn's ideas of the object of our government, and the Resident's ideas of his own responsibility, it occurs to me, that much good might arise from a full and authoritative communication to Hyder Beg Khawn of the Governer General's instructions; and as the Resident may have likewise mis-

conceived the Governor General's inſtructions as abſolute authority for meaſures which this government might wiſh, but would not proceed to exert with indelicacy or violence; ſo I could wiſh that the Governor General would draw the line more clearly, where the Reſident may, from an idea of of his own reſponſibility, have tranſgreſſed the letter of his orders.

In the letter of the Vizier and of the miniſter, two parts are ſolicited; not only the recall of the Reſident and his deputy, but what they ſtate a diſcretional power to the Vizier over his own country, and the monies to be paid to the Company; promiſing, at the ſame time, that if ſuch a power is granted, they will pay the Company's claims regularly and fully.

I much, for this is not a time for motiving ſuch an experiment—and here I would wiſh to obſerve, to obviate prejudices in Europe, which might be raiſed againſt the inſtructions which were given to Mr. Briſtow, and that determined authority with which this government was obliged to interfere in the affairs of the Vizier, that our embarraſſments were great when thoſe inſtructions were dictated. A rebellion prevailed in the Vizier's dominions, of which he ſeemed inſenſible as well as his miniſter, but which would have ſpeedily involved theſe provinces had it not been checked; and what may be alledged by ſome as too violent a tone in an inſtruction, was ſuited to the occaſion, and had humanity and peace for its object.

I ſhall be happy to meet the ſentiments of the other members of the Board on theſe objects; and of all differences of opinions would wiſh to avoid that moſt which relates to the management of Oude, or the ſituation of a Reſident there.

Upon this principle, and as the Board have been of late much occupied with the general arrangement of our affairs, I have hitherto avoided to preſs an examination into the conduct of the late Reſidents at Oude, and the complaints which were advanced againſt them, and which were the ſubject of my minute of

The Secretary has been directed to make out the charges againſt thoſe gentlemen. An inveſtigation of thoſe charges, ſome of which originated from the Vizier's miniſter, may throw light upon the complaints of the ſame Miniſter againſt the preſent Reſident. Fortunately for the Company's intereſts, the heavy charges againſt thoſe gentlemen have no ground in the preſent inſtance; for the peace of the Vizier's dominions, and the regular payment of our troops there, ſeem fully attended to by the preſent Reſident, and I doubt much a better if theſe great public purpoſes would be equally ſecured, if Hyder Beg Khawn's requeſt, in his letter,

Digitized by Google

letter, received the 7th of April, were indulged by this government.

Mr. Wheler, May 15th 1783.

I have perused the several letters and papers transmitted by the Nabob Vizier, and his minister Hyder Beg Khawn, to the Governor General, and compared the same, both with the instructions given to Mr. Bristow, and likewise with his letters to the Governor General on the subjects which gave rise to the complaints made by the Nabob Vizier and his Minister.

From these letters Mr. Bristow, I think, appears not to have been deficient in attention to the instructions delivered by the Governor General; but on the contrary has given, from time to time, very full information on the different points which he was particularly directed to examine and explain.

The Vizier, it is true, brings to his charge the appointment of a Sezawal to Furruckabad, contrary to his inclinations; and although in this instance the Resident has not acted in conformity with the Governor General's instructions, yet the urgent necessity which impelled him to this measure has been represented to the Board in terms which would seem to justify his deviation from them.

The next and principal ground of complaint stated by the Vizier is the appointment of a Treasurer and Comptroller, by the Resident, of his own choosing, to receive the amount appropriated to the Vizier's household expences, and to superintend the disbursement of the same. It does not appear, by the Resident's letter of the 4th March, that he has carried his interference in this matter so far as is here represented. He tells the Nabob, that it is the Governor General's wish his income should be at his own disposal; and though he recommends Tipper Chund for the office of Treasurer to the Vizier's household, yet when this recommendation is rejected by the Nabob, the Resident declares his perfect indifference as to the person who shall be appointed, but strongly urges the Nabob to make choice of a proper officer for that department. Indeed the representations of the Vizier and his Minister, and of our Resident upon this subject, are so very different, that I feel myself at at a loss to give a decided opinion on Mr. Bristow's conduct in this business. The board, I think, should immediately determine whether it is necessary for the Nabob to establish such an office, and in that case to direct, Mr. Bristow not to interfere in the recommendation or appointment of the person who is to be put in charge of it.

The Nabob Vizier and his Minister, in the course of their correspondence with the Governor General, accuse

Digitized by Google

Mr. Bristow, not only of treating the Nabob with disrespect, but even with indignity; it must, however, be remembered, that while the former closes his address with a hope, which he has long cherished of being relieved from the residence of any person on the part of this government at his Court, the latter concludes with a request to be confirmed in the appointment which he now holds, of Minister to the Vizier, and to be entrusted with the management of the Company's concerns with him. It is but reasonable, therefore, to suppose, that the representations against Mr. Bristow are, from these circumstances, rather overcharged. Upon the whole, I am of opinion, that it will be proper for this Board to afford the Resident an opportunity of replying more fully to the charges brought against him by the Nabob and his Minister, before they finally decide upon the propriety or validity of those charges.

A true Extract.

E. HAY.

Acting Secretary to the Secret Department.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Honourable the Governor General and Council, in their Secret Department; dated 22*d May* 1783.

The Governor General lays before the Board the following letter and papers from Hyder Beg Cawn.

From Hyder Beg Khaun to the Honourable the Governor General; Received May 1st 1783.

Usual Introduction.

The situation of affairs here, from the behaviour and conduct of Mr. Bristow, I formerly represented to you; what has since occurred is as follows:

His Highness last year appointed Mouluvvi Mubeen, a man learned in the laws, to preside over the court of Adâlut, and from that period all suits between contending parties have been determined by him agreeably to the Shurra; and the Diary of such suits and decisions thereon by him is forthcoming. To establish his authority over every department of Government, and to annihilate that of his Highness, are the objects of Mr. Bristow: he has appointed Mr. Cooper Dawrogeh of the Adaulut, and Mr. Cooper, with the authority of a superior lord or master, has wrote his Awards, or Dustkhut * on the petitions of complainants, such as concerned the Aumils to execute, to them, and such as belonged to the city of Lucknow, to the Vizier;

* *Vide Copy of Arzees, No.* 6.

and

Digitized by Google

and these petitions, thus superscribed by him, he sent to me, directing me to cause the seal of the Navvaub to be affixed to them. I answered, that I would represent the matter to his Highness. I represented it accordingly, and shewed him the petitions superscribed by Mr. Cooper: his Highness said, that they were evidently the instruments of his dishonour, and of the extinction of his authority; inasmuch as he had superscribed the petitions of the country complainants with his Dustkhut, directed to the Aumils, and those of the inhabitants of the city to him, as if he were the Cutwal of the city of Lucknow, and that he would never submit to it: desiring that these circumstances might be written to you, that whatever might be your pleasure in his behalf, you might act agreeably thereto. I waited on Mr. Bristow, but did not inform him of my representation to the Vizier: I only told him that such petitions, so superscribed with the Dustkhut of Mr. Cooper, had been received, and that Mr. Cooper had required the Nuvvaub's seal to be affixed to them; adding, that if he had ordered me so to do, I would represent the business to the Nuvvaub. He replied, that it was not in fact necessary to inform the Vizier; whenever he should settle and arrange the plan of the Adalut, I might represent it to him. After this he asked me if I had received any intelligence from Calcutta: I replied in the negative. He then spoke of affairs in Europe, that the Governor General, and other gentlemen of the Council, were dismissed; and he then proceeded to reflect on your conduct in such a manner, that neither at the time had I the power to endure his reflections, nor have I now the heart or the hand to write them. I said, on this occasion, what my tongue enabled me to say, respecting your qualities; observing, that owing to you appearances were supported and kept up towards the chiefs of Hindostan; and that if, which God forbid, you should go to Europe, even those appearances would remain no longer, and that a world would be involved in ruin. Mr. Bristow was offended at this observation; he said, that he had not spoke of the Governor, but at the time when he was dismissed, if he had not been dismissed he would not have mentioned these things. He then proceeded to say, that in the same manner as the government at Calcutta had been new modelled, in the same manner the government here should be new modelled; adding, "Enter into engagements with me, I also, on my part, will give a Coul Naumeh to you under my hand, and we will jointly new model this government." I demanded to know in what manner: he replied, "I will send out other Aumils over the Nuvvaub's country. Soorut Sing, the Dewan of the Surcor is grown old, I will appoint a new Dewan;

 "I will

Digitized by Google

"I will have the whole military establishment, by the "forming of new troops, under my own authority; I will "appoint another Treasurer, and keep the public Treasury "in a separate building, under the charge of my own peo-"ple; and I will issue to the Vizier in specie as much as "may be actually necessary for his expences; when I shall "require it, you shall advance ten or twelve lacks of ru-"pees, to defray expences, from your private property; "and you must engage not to write on affairs here to Cal-"cutta. We, English gentlemen, are all united together "as one person, and in the end it will not be well for you "so to do. If you will enter into engagements with me "agreeably to these conditions, so much the better; we "will act in concert in the management of affairs; if not, "I will, on the strength of my own power, do as I have "declared; and you must not again complain that I have "deprived you of the execution of your office." I, who was stricken dumb, and confounded by what he had said respecting you, replied, that I would return home, and having weighed and considered the business would reply to every particular. At my two succeeding visits to Mr. Bristow, he again renewed the proposal respecting the Coul Nameh; to which I replied that I was subordinate to him; that with respect to the management of the affairs of government in concert, I would, in subordination to him, and to the utmost of my power, fulfil his commands; that no other engagements but those of obedience ought to be entered into by an inferior with his superior, he was offended at this answer. At this juncture his Highness took leave of Mr. Bristow, and went on an excursion to hunt. Mr. Cooper again sent me a message, importing that his Highness being absent from Lucknow, I should affix my own seal to the petitions which he had superscribed, that the awards might be carried into execution. I waited on Mr. Bristow, and represented these circumstances relative to the execution of the business of the Adaulut, &c.: Mr. Bristow made me no answer. Two days after he wrote me a letter, to which I replied, I have sent copies of both, they attend your perusal. He tells me his Highness has no knowledge in these matters; that all these evasions come from me: Mr. Cooper issues his Dustkhuts to the Nuvvaub, as to an Aumil, or the Cutwal of the city; in addition to which he says, "What does the Nuvvab know of these "matters?—You must enforce them without his know-"ledge:" his Highness deeming it derogatory to his honour, and subversive of his authority, refuses to comply. I have been raised from the earth to rank and honour by you, and am every way prepared to fulfil your pleasure. Mr. Bristow is determined, in his resolutions respecting

Mr.

Digitized by Google

Mr. Cooper's authority over the Adawlut, the appointment of a Dewan to these Soobahs, the taking possession of the Dufter accounts of his Highness's Surcor, and the appointment of a new Treasurer, that he may have the general Treasury of the whole country under his distinct and separate authority: whatever may be your orders with respect to these affairs, those I will obey; I will not evade compliance with your commands; such is the conduct of Mr. Bristow. He says that whatever measures he directs I must execute, without regard to the necessity of informing the Vizier; otherwise he of his own authority will execute them. His Highness, from a regard to the preservation of his honour and authority, refuses his consent. Thus circumstanced, whatever shall be your orders, those I will obey, requesting permission to represent them on your part to his Highness, who considers his prosperity and well-being to depend on you.

Concludes as usual.

From Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Khaun; written the 14th of Jummaud ul Awul, 1197.

Copy enclosed in Hyder Beg Khaun's Letter to the Honourable the Governor General; received the 1st of May 1783.

Some days have elapsed since Mahomed Hooseen Attare Khaun waited upon you from Mr. Cooper. He brought back from you a message, that after you had represented the business to his Highness, the order should be carried into execution. I sent a verbal answer to you, "that in such "matters your seal affixed to the petitions, or your Perwanahs or letters directed to the Aumils, would be sufficient." Since then I have received no reply from you. As it does not certainly appear that his Highness's return will be speedy, as the crowd of complainants is great, and as those and other affairs are at a stand, I therefore trouble you to write Perwanehs or letters under your own seal, to the Aumils against whom the petitioners have exhibited complaints, that there may be no delay in the execution of necessary business; in case there should be any objections on this ground, inform me of them plainly: in every business your friendship is my first object. It appears to me, that you are possessed of discretional authority in such affairs, notwithstanding which you keep them in suspence until his Highness's return. I regard from my heart and soul the preservation of the respect due to his Highness, and there are many things which it is certainly improper to do without

out

Digitized by Google

out his approbation; but to write orders to the Aumils to investigate matters of equity, and cruelty, and oppression; which are purely calculated for the happiness and prosperity of mankind, and is a business which will occur daily; in such affairs there will be no end to the applications for permission to his Highness.

It is moreover the wish of my heart, that agreeably to the orders and commands of the Nuvvaub Immaud uf Dowleh, the Governor General, that, acting in concert with you in the execution of measures, affairs may be happily conducted and arranged. For these ten days past I have been somewhat indisposed, and am therefore going to Nutturee Ghaut for the benefit of the air: God willing, I shall return at the end of three days, when we shall have the pleasure of meeting. This I have written for your information.

From Hyder Beg Khaun to Mr. Bristow; written on the 14th Jummaud ul Awul 1197.

Copy enclosed in Hyder Beg Khaun's Letter to the Honourable the Governor General; received May 1st, 1783.

I have been favoured with your letter on the affair of the complainants, your directions corresponding with Mr. Cooper's requisition respecting his Dustkhuts, on all occasions obedience and attention to your pleasure are the objects of my regard. When Hoosen Attan Khaun brought me a message from Mr. Cooper, that I should cause his Highness's seal to be affixed to those petitions, superscribed with his (Mr. Cooper's) Dustkhut, I then told you, that if you directed me so to do, I would apply to the Vizier for his seal to be affixed to those petitions superscribed by Mr. Cooper. You replied, that until you had settled the plan of the Adawlet business, it would be unnecessary to represent it to his Highness. After his Highness had set out on his hunting excursion, Hoosein Attan Chawn brought me a message to affix my own seal to them; I then said, that after representing the case to you, I would give an answer. I informed you, that Mouluvvi Mubeen was the Dawrogeh of the Addawlut, and that all suits were determined by him agreeably to the Shurra; and that the diary of such as had been determined for some time past had been transmitted to me; that others were depending; that from the time that the Moulluvvi had been appointed to the conduct of the business of the Adaulut, he had decided on all subjects of litigation, and that what he awarded, as agreeably to the Shurra, had been carried into execution; and with respect to the complaints of people against the Aumils, the greatest part

Digitized by Google

part of them are exhibited by battalion Sepoys, refpecting the non-enforcing the collections from their Tunkhaw lands, &c.; formerly of thofe who came, fome received Shoccahs from the prefence, to others letters were granted; on every occafion, and every where, that which appeared equitable was done; the fame mode is ftill fubfifting. I will now be more particular in my injunctions than before. I am no way deficient in obedience and fubmiffion to you; but this is a delicate and important bufinefs, which has been brought forward: inafmuch as Mr. Cooper, in the ftile of a fuperior lord, fuperfcribes the petitions of the complainants with his Duftkhut, addreffed, thofe which concern the Aumils to them, and thofe which relate to matters in the city to the Vizier; if I have your directions I will apply to his Highnefs refpecting this manner and mode, under his Duftkhut, that the fame may be adopted.

Your intentions in going to Putturree Ghaut will, I hope be fulfilled. I pray God to reftore your health. If any thing important fhould occur for communication, I will attend you there, or wait upon you, and reprefent every thing on your return to Lucknow.

Narrative of converfation between Mr. Briftow and Hyder Beg Khaun; written by Hyder Beg Khaun.—Copy received 4th of May 1783.

Mr. Briftow came in the evening: his converfation firft turned upon affairs in Europe; that other gentlemen were coming, in confequence of the difmiffion of the Governor and others; that the perfon who was coming in the place of the Governor, who was a chief of high rank, was related to Mr. Cooper; that the idea which lately exifted, that by the appointment of a former Minifter who was the friend of the Governor, the Governor's ftability would be fecured, was at length known to be erroneous; for that the Governor's mifconduct was now plainly proved and afcertained in Europe; "Therefore," he faid, "it is my wifh "that you and I fhould enter into mutual engagements; "for by acting in concert with each other, affairs will be "effectually conducted. I have been recommended in Europe "to thefe gentlemen who are coming, and my heart is "every way at reft with refpect to my own affairs."

I afked him for what particular purpofes it was, that he required fuch fecurities from me: He replied, "for the "well-modelling the Vizier's government; and further-"more, that you fhall not enter into engagements with "any one but me."

I afked, what his plan for modelling the Vizier's government was, in the execution of which he was defirous of

Digitized by Google

of my acting with him? He repeated verbally some articles. I called for pen and ink, and wrote them down as he repeated them (vide articles, No 5.) and then asked, whether these were all, or if there was any thing more? He replied, "This plan, after this manner, is agreeable to the "orders of the Governor and Gentlemen of the Council, "directed to be carried into execution, which, at the "time of my coming here, they gave to me personally, and "delivered to me in writing: Their orders for the esta"blishment of the Persian Dufter have been lately written, "and received by me; and I have written to the gentlemen "of the Council, that the settlement for the present year "was made before my arrival, but that I will carry it into "execution at the beginning of the next.."

I said, "Since such a plan is to be carried into execu"tion by the order of the Governor General, I will not "in any manner hesitate to obey his orders; but your dis"position is so doubting and suspicious, that the sincerity "and uprightness of my intentions have been useless, and "of no avail." That, respecting his directions, declared by him to be the orders of the Governor, "that such things "were not to depend on the Nuvvaub's being informed of "them," from an apprehension for my honour; as he had said, "That any evasions or objections which might arise, "would not be the Nuvvaub's, but mine;" I had executed them. That now, from the introduction of the present plan, the authority of his Highness would be annihilated altogether. If the Nuvvaub should hesitate to consent to this plan, what were his intentions in that case?

He replied, "I will not suffer it to depend on the Nuv"vaub's compliance or non-compliance, I will carry it "into execution." I answered, that I would not in any manner whatever dispute the Governor's commands, for that I was declaredly a dependant on him, and was satisfied that whatever he should order, must be right in every respect; but desired, that in case I should, agreeably to his (Mr. Bristow's) orders, execute this business in opposition to the inclinations of the Nuvvaub, he would procure, for my security and satisfaction, a letter from the Governor directed to me, importing, that I must act agreeably to whatever he (Mr. Bristow) might direct, and that I must not suffer my compliance to depend on assent or dissent on the part of his Highness, as in that case, if his Higness should be offended, I shall on this side be sure of protection and support, nay, that it appeared necessary, moreover, that these articles should be written and transmitted to me.

He replied, "I tell you, that the Governor is dismissed; "of what use is it then to require letters from thence?" I answered

Digitized by Google

anſwered, that I was a dependant on the Governor; as long as he continued at Calcutta I would act in obedience to his pleaſure; and whenever the period for his departure ſhould arrive, I would go to him, and would then do as he ſhould direct.

He replied, "All this labour and trouble is unneceſſary; "I offer you the ſecurities neceſſary, being perfectly ſatiſ-"fied and ſecure myſelf with reſpect to the gentlemen who "are coming, I will give you a Coul Naumeh, binding my-"ſelf to ſupport and promote your intereſts both in Calcutta "and in Europe."

I anſwered, that he muſt not conſider my declarations of dependance on the Governor as a matter of profeſſion only, but be aſſured to a certainty, that whenever poſitive information ſhould be received that he was about to depart for Europe, I would wait upon him; and in whatever manner he ſhould direct, ſo I would act.

"It appears then," he ſaid, "that you will withdraw "yourſelf from the management of affairs here?" I replied, that I executed the duties of my office, in fact, through the influence of the Governor's ſupport: when he was gone to Europe, through the influence of whoſe protection was I to manage affairs?—That I would not continue.

He was offended at this declaration, and replied, "I am "every way ready to give you ſecurity and ſatisfaction. "Such confidence in the diſpoſition of the Governor, or in "his intimates and dependants, is idle and ill-founded. It "is impoſſible to place dependance on the Governor's "word or declarations." I ſaid that hitherto, from the beginning, his kindneſs towards me had been always increaſing; I had never experienced any deficiency or alteration in his diſpoſition towards me; and "that human nature is the "ſlave of kindneſs," was amongſt us a proverb.

Much converſation of this ſort paſſed between us, after that he had ſaid, "I will cauſe the orders I have received re-"ſpecting the modelling of this Government, to be tranſ-"lated into Perſian by my Moonſhee, who is a truſt-worthy "perſon, and deliver it to you: You will do well to follow "the example ef Mokhtur ul Dowleh, and enter into a "written engagement and agreement with me."

In order to know of what nature Mokhtaur ul Dowleh's Coul Naumeh was, I propoſed to him to give me a copy of it, that I might conſider it; but added, that ſecurity on the part of the Governor was abſolutely neceſſary, in the firſt inſtance. That he (Mr. Briſtow) aſſerted, that the Governor was undoubtedly diſmiſſed; in conſequence of which my faculties and underſtanding were no longer in the ſtate neceſſary to do buſineſs.

He

He encouraged me, by assurances of his own stability; and said, "the day after to-morrow I shall go to Putturee "Ghaut, there I shall have leisure: I will remain there "two days. I will cause the translation of the orders for "the modelling and arranging of affairs here to be written, "and give it to you on my return."

Considering a respite of three or four days as an advantage gained, I expressed the greatest approbation. Again I repeated the question on this point, "whether these were the "orders, that whether his Highness should be satisfied or "dissatisfied, at all events the business must be done?" He said, "Yes: The orders are absolute. If his Highness "should prove obstinate, I will not advance any thing for "the expences of his Surcar; I will suspend the payment "of his stipend. When he shall be distressed for his neces-"sary expences, he will acquiesce of his own accord."

He then opened to me the real object of yesterday's conversation, saying, there were certain points on which on the arrival of the new gentlemen, caution would be necessary. I asked him, on what points? He said, "such as the business "of Colonel Cummings, in which a Shoccah was written "without the Vizier's knowledge, and others of the like "nature, which may have taken place: This circumstance, "has proved highly disagreeable to the gentlemen of the "council. Whenever his Highness shall assert that these "things have been done without his knowledge, blame "will fall upon you."

I replied, that in obedience to him I had caused it be done. That he had repeatedly asked me, "why I introduced the "name of the Vizier?"—that I must act as he directed—that especially in the business of the Shoccah to Colonel Cummings, he had importuned me for three days; and that from a regard to the preservation of my honour, I had caused it to be written without the Vizier's knowledge—that the same had been done with respect to the Tunkhau of the Toork Suvvaurs, and other matters.

He replied, "It is on this account I say to you, that now "that you and I are about to be united, you must consider "any thing injurious to my reputation which shall befall "me as befalling yourself; and thus, any thing of that "sort happening to you, I shall consider as happening to "me. You replied angrily to my letter, that, by my de-"sire you had affixed the seal of the Vizier, without his "knowledge, to the Shoccahs, and delivered them."

I replied, that this was not written in anger; that he had accused me of disobeying the orders of the gentlemen of the Council, and his pleasure; that I, in reply, had inserted the particulars, which I had done in obedience to the orders communicated by him, and to his pleasure: That if I had

no

Digitized by Google

not inserted them, I should have appeared guilty of the disobedience charged upon me; that if I had written any thing not founded in fact, he would have accused me of it at the time;' or he could do it then, and demand my reasons for such and such false assertions.

He replied, "The things which you write are of such a "nature that a fair and direct answer cannot be given; but "in certain affairs, which may prove the subjects of "inquiry or accusation against me, it will be better to keep "silence." I answered, that with respect to what he said to me verbally, I would act agreeably to his pleasure; but that when he thought proper to put his sentiments upon paper, and give them in writing, if I did not answer them faithfully and fully, I myself should be subject to accusations.

He answered, "I will be careful in this respect for the "future, and not write. Silence, however, on this sub-"ject is necessary (on your part) that it may not be known "to the gentlemen who are coming that the Vizier's seal "has been affixed to papers and Shoccahs without his know-"ledge." I said, that when the new gentlemen should arrive, and I should continue here in the management of affairs, I would act in whatever manner he should please to direct.

His object is, that it may not *now* be discovered that the Vizier's seal has been affixed to Shoccahs without his knowledge. He did not plainly and directly say it, but obliquely and secretly he hinted as much; and said, "the complaints "and reflections which have lately been exhibited against "me at the Board, have been disapproved, and that which "I have written has met with approbation; but such mat-"ters must not be made known to the new gentlemen."

Much more he said, containing reflections on the gentlemen in the Governor's confidence, advice respecting the execution of the plan, and the deceiving of the Vizier so that, by throwing him off his guard, the business might be effected; adding, when it is once done, how will his Highness then be able to remedy it? "thus it was that Mokh-"taur û Dowlah and I in concert, carried our points, by "representing matters as trivial, or advantageous, or by "holding out temptations of various descriptions to the Vi-"zier; and when the business was once executed, he was "silent, nor knew or foresaw the ultimate consequences "which would follow." In the same manner you must now advise the Nuvvaub, as I shall direct you: and having by artifice obtained his approbation, carry into execution.

This conversation he spun out to a prodigious length; to attempt to write it would be endless. I said thus much in reply, that with respect to the execution of measures contrary

Digitized by Google

contrary to the inclinations of the Vizier, as intended by him, that I would not hesitate to obey the Governor's orders, communicated to me as such; but that, to procure a letter of assurance from the Governor to the purport already mentioned, was absolutely necessary, that I might be secured from the consequences of the Nuvvaub's resentment.

He replied, I will cause a Persian translation of the orders to be made, and give it to you, and we will after that talk again. Assurance or security from the Governor is unnecessary, since in a short time he will set out for Europe. I repeated my former answer. It remains to be seen hereafter, what the next conversation will produce.

Account of the Articles for the Regulation of the Country and Habitation of his Highness, which Mr. Bristow caused to be written.

Having appointed a new Treasurer, I will establish the general treasury of the country in two places; one for the Surcor of the Company, the other for the expences of the Nuvvaub's household and household establishments, for the Tunkaw and Jageerdars: what shall be necessary for the Nuvvaub's expences, &c. I will issue in money. I will keep the Persian Dufter of the governmental officers and the Mootasuddies, and will appoint a Dewan to superintend the same.

Having dismissed the Aumils appointed by his Highness, I will appoint other Aumils.

I will keep the cavalry and infantry under my own authority; and what other troops may be necessary, I will raise them also by my own authority.

I will keep the business of the Adawlut under my authority. Such expences for superfluous elephants and horses in the Nuvvaub's Dowaub, and for provisions dressed, are unnecessary—let him diminish them.

I will take the old Dufters and papers which are in the Surcor of his Highness.

Having dismissed the great Aumils, I will appoint separate inferior Aumils in their place.

Digitized by Google

The Shurra
Duskhut of Mr.
Cooper, in the writing of his
Moonshee.
Let orders be given Takur Chund not to
injure and oppress without cause; but set the sons
in-law of Haujee Aukan Mahummud at liberty, and
write an account of the circumstances respecting them
to the presence.

Erzee to Mr. Bristow.

Sets forth, That the two sons-in-law to Haujee Aukan Mahummud have been confined in prison during the whole of the last year. From the Time of Fakeer Chund's appointment he has treated them with the utmost severity, even to the prohibiting their food from being brought to them. We had rented the Purgunnah of Aaligung for three years; four months of the Fussul of Hurreef remained when we were turned out: all that was received to that period was paid; and if we had continued through the Hurreef Fussul, the remainder would have been paid. We are in no shape guilty—we hope, from your favour and goodness, that in your kindness to the poor and helpless you will set them at liberty, &c.

Signed, the Erzee of the family
of Hauje Aukan Mahommed.

The

Digitized by Google

The
Shurra Dustkhut
of Mr. Cooper, in the
writing of his Moonshee.
Let orders be issued to Jauni
Beg, not to molest the habi-
tations of the widows,
but to make good the
injury he has done them.

Erzee to the Nuvvaub, the Dispenser of Justice, &c.

Sets forth, That Jauni Beg unjustly, and by force and violence, hath seized upon the dwellings of certain widows —you are the protector of the poor—whatever may be your determination in behalf of the widows, be pleased to declare it;—we have no other refuge but you, &c. He formerly pulled down four or five houses, and he has now prohibited water from being carried to four or five others, &c.

Signed, Erzee of the Widows.

The Governor General having seen the minutes of the other members of the Board, recorded on the 19th instant, delivered the following opinion thereon, which was sent in circulation:

The Governor General.

I mean not to condemn Mr. Bristow, nor am I his accuser. It is highly proper and regular that he be furnished with the complaints which have been preferred against him, and his defence received, or time allowed to make it, before any measures be taken with respect to him personally, or his office.

The Nabob Vizier is also entitled to some degree of tenderness, although it has been too much the custom to regard and treat him as a vassal of the Company, and the mere political instrument of this government. He has accused Mr. Bristow of assuming the tone of command in his personal address; of appointing a Treasurer and Comptroller of his domestic expences; of sending requisitions in the Nabob Vizier's name, for military detachments, without the Nabob's authority; of writing letters in the Nabob's name, for the receipt and disbursement of money, and compelling the Vizier's seal without his authority; of disbanding his troops without consulting him; of nominating and stationing Sezawuls at Farrockabad and other

places

Digitized by Google

places, without the Nabob's authority, and using his own in instances in which the Nabob Vizier has refused to grant it: and from papers subsequently received, and which I have laid before the Board, a fresh charge appears against Mr. Bristow, of having conferred on Mr. Cooper the chief administration of justice over the Nabob Vizier's dominions.

These charges are true, or they are false. If they are true, they are grievances of the most inveterate kind; and the faith and interest of the Company, and of this government, are concerned in redressing them; and the first step necessary to this end is to pass an order for revoking the acts on which they are founded, and which construe them such. If the charges are false, the order will prove ineffective, and, at the worst, will do no harm.

This is not a time to try Mr. Bristow's acts by the test of his instructions. I certainly did not mean to give Mr. Bristow an authority to do what I never would dare to do myself; and am pleased that there are proofs on record of my principles with respect to the Nabob Vizier, which are most repugnant to every species of violence and usurpation.

I do therefore repeat the motion which I have already made to the Board, That Mr. Bristow be furnished with copies of the papers containing the charges against him: that the Board require him to reply to them; and, in the mean time, if he shall have appointed any person or persons to the charge of offices appertaining to the administration of the Nabob Vizier, that he do immediately revoke the appointments, and confine himself solely to the charge of such affairs as appertain to the Company, in the department specially allotted to him, leaving to the Nabob Vizier the entire and uncontrouled management of his own concerns.

20 May 1783.

The members of the Board deliver their opinions upon the Governor General's motion as follow.

Mr. Stables.

In answer to the question referred to me in the last paragraph of the Governor General's minute, 20th May.

In justice to the character of our Resident, I cannot accede to the revocation of any appointment of officers or arrangements that he has made, till he is heard in his defence, against the charges brought against him by the Nabob Vizier.

When his answer is received, the matter will be fully before the Board; and I hope it will be the subject of debate, whether his conduct is justified by the instructions he has

 received,

Digitized by Google

received, or whether he has exceeded the powers he was intrusted with.

Mr. Macpherson.

I cannot agree to the two last propositions in the Governor General's minute of the 20th of May. The 4th and 5th articles of our instructions, of the 28th October last, through the Governor General to our Resident at Oude, were very strong; and it is my opinion, for reasons alluded to in my former minute upon this subject, that the Resident should be heard in defence of any arrangements he has taken in consequence of our directions, before those arrangement are ordered to be revoked. The line to separate the Vizier's concerns from those of the Company, cannot easily be drawn; and this government, and not the Resident, can alone define it. I wish our distresses would permit us to render it easier to the Vizier.

Mr. Wheler.

Let it be examined, whether the orders on which the Resident is said to have usurped an authority over the Nabob, were given for special or for general purposes; if for special, whether those purposes are yet realized; if for general, whether the same motives, which induced this government to deviate from their common and ordinary form of instructing the Resident at the Nabob's court, may not yet justify that deviation; or, in other words, whether the views of this government are equally attainable under another set of instructions, which at one and the same time tend to the enlargement of the powers usually exercised by the Nabob's Minister, and to the diminution of the influence of the Company's Resident. The instructions in question point out the consequence of the alteration proposed, in terms that amply supply the want of local knowledge, and on my mind imprint the necessity, which at this time urges us, with uncommon pressure, to uphold the influence of our Resident, in preference to that of the Nabob's Minister.

I have already acceded to the proposal made by the Governor General, of transmitting all the charges that have been exhibited against the Resident and his assistant, in order that they may answer them; till then, in my opinion, no further measures should be taken.

If it shall hereafter appear that, under the present existing orders, the Resident shall have ventured to make appointments, which are neither justified by them, by policy, or by necessity, such appointments must be reversed; but on the contrary, if appointments said to have been made by the Resident shall upon enquiry appear to be conformable to the

Digitized by Google

the letter and ſpirit of his inſtructions, and conſonant alſo to the good government and proſperity of the Nabob's dominions, as well as to the ſupport of his authority, it will ſurely be conſidered as unbecoming the dignity of this government to permit the intrigues of a dependant on the Nabob to fruſtrate a plan judiciouſly and wiſely calculated to extricate the Vizier from his preſent difficulties, and the India Company from a very precarious demand upon his country, almoſt at the hour when they may hope to realize the amount of it. I cannot, therefore, in this ſtage of the buſineſs, aſſent to that part of the Governor General's minute, which propoſes, that "if the Reſident ſhall have "appointed any perſon or perſons to the charge of offices "appertaining to the adminiſtration of the Nabob Vizier, "he do immediately revoke the appointments, and confine "himſelf ſolely to the charge of ſuch affairs as appertain to "the Company in the department ſpecially allotted to "him."

Reſolved, and ordered, That a copy of the charges exhibited in the letters from the Nabob Vizier, and from his Miniſter Hyder Beg Cawn, againſt the Reſident, Mr. Briſtow, be ſent to him, and that he be required to deliver his anſwer to them.

Reſolved, That the queſtion, viz. And in the mean time if he (Mr. Briſtow) ſhall have appointed any perſon or perſons to the charge of offices appertaining to the adminiſtration of the Nabob Vizier, that he do immediately revoke the appointments, and confine himſelf ſolely to the charge of ſuch affairs as appertain to the Company in the department ſpecially allotted to him; "leaving to the Nabob "Vizier the entire and uncontrouled management of his "own concerns," be carried in the negative.

The Governor General deſires it to be recorded, that he proteſts againſt the reſolution of the Board, and will aſſign his reaſons at large hereafter. He alſo deſires that as the inſtructions given by him to Mr. Briſtow have no longer any force, and as he ſolemnly diſavows their authority, under any conſtruction, for Mr. Briſtow to exerciſe any controul over the Nabob Vizier, or participation in the ſovereignty of the Vizier's dominions, the Board will be pleaſed to cauſe ſuch new inſtructions to be drawn out, and tranſmitted to Mr. Briſtow, as they ſhall think proper, to regulate his conduct on the principles which they have laid down for the maintenance of the relation of this government to the Nabob Vizier.

A true Copy. E. Hay,
Acting Secy. to the Secret Dept.

Digitized by Google

Received the following Letter from Mr. Briftow.

To the Honourable Warren Haftings, Efquire, Governor General, &c. Members of the Supreme Council, Fort William.

Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

As by the inftructions I received from the honourable Governor General, fhortly after my appointment, negociations of the laft importance to thefe provinces, and to the interefts of the Company, have been entrufted to my conduct; and as, at the fame time, I am charged with a heavy refponfibility in cafe of failure or mifmanagement, you will not, I flatter myfelf, gentlemen, deem this addrefs, however prolix, impertinently obtruded upon your attention; or be difpleafed that a narrative, dictated by truth, fhould be delivered with freedom.

* The character of Hyder Beg Khan, and his conduct antecedent to my appointment, were fo fully underftood, and have been fo ably delineated by the Governor General, that no teftimony of mine could illuftrate or explain them further; but it is a duty incumbent upon me to declare, that, during the period this Minifter's conduct has been laft under my obfervations, I have difcovered no favourable change in his difpofition, or any one fymptom of penitence or reformation; and the indulgence fhewn him by your government has ferved only to animate and encourage him to a more determined fyftematic refiftance. Agreeably to the letter of my inftructions, I have given Hyder Beg Khan repeatedly and unequivocally to underftand that the Governor was very well difpofed to pafs in filence over the errors of the paft, provided his future conduct fhould not provoke an enquiry. At the fame time, and to facilitate the early and complete accomplifhment of all the great objects of my miffion, I endeavoured, by the frankeft offers of my friendfhip and confidence, and by every art of perfuafion, to engage him to unite heartily and cordially with me. Under thefe circumftances, perhaps, it will not be eafy to explain the reafons of his contumacy; and I muft, gentlemen, fubmit it to your better judgment to decide, whether, it is in a mifconftruction of your lenity they are to be fought, or whether, notwithftanding my affurances, the Minifter's fears may not have furmounted his faith, and perfuaded him into an opinion that every new arrangement would probably be followed by fome new difcovery, and at laft induce an enquiry into his conduct, which might end in his being made refponfible in his own perfon for all the mif-

* *No.* 3. *Extract of Gov. General's Inftructions.*

chiefs

Digitized by Google

chiefs and all the ruin of his miniſtry; or laſtly, whether his haughty ſpirit might not revolt at the firſt attempts to ſet bounds to an authority, which long impunity had taught him to think was no longer ſubject to dimunition or controul. Be his motives what they may, certain it is, he has hitherto uniformly oppoſed every innovation, however ſalutary, with the moſt unyielding obſtinacy; and though his language is all humility and ſubmiſſion, he has ſtill availed himſelf of every influence he derived from his power, his talents, and his wealth, to impede or fruſtrate my deſigns; never ſurrendering a ſingle point which he judged it of importance to contend, however preſſingly I might urge the neceſſity of compliance, on the ſtrong and very ſerious ground of your poſitive and indiſpenſable commands. Thus, Gentlemen, after an ineffectual ſtruggle, far from ſeeing the Miniſter at my devotion, I have the mortification to find him ſtill in the character of a haughty rival; and I am confirmed in my opinion that the degree of aſcendancy neceſſary to make my ſituation at this Court reſpectable and efficient is, under the circumſtances I now ſtand in, not eaſily attainable. As I have been ſome time ſince convinced of the Miniſter's diſpoſition, it will be proper I ſhould explain why I did not, at an earlier period, ſolicit on this ſubject the interpoſition of your authority. My reaſons were theſe: the Governor General's own letters had announced to Hyder Beg the only conditions upon which he would be permitted to continue in office. I had alſo, by the moſt explicit declarations, laboured to convince him of Mr. Haſtings's unalterable determination, and urged to him the folly and temerity of reſiſtance. I knew he had ſenſe enough to diſcern the danger and delicacy of his ſituation; and I concluded, in ſpite of all his pride, that he had ſufficient diſcretion to ſubſcribe to inevitable neceſſity with a good grace, and not wantonly to provoke his fate; when at laſt I found myſelf deceived in this expectation, I had ſtill the ſtrongeſt reaſons for wiſhing to avoid an open rupture with the Miniſter, though I thought it incumbent upon me to adviſe the honourable Governor General of the ſuperadded difficulties I had to contend with from Hyder Beg Khan's oppoſition. Mr. Haſtings, in his inſtructions to me, ſpeaking of Hyder Beg Khan, and explaining his reaſons why, under certain conditions, he would prefer him to any other man, who could be nominated to his office, concludes with the following obſervation: "but above all, becauſe a change of "adminiſtration in a government ſo looſe as that of Oude "(where all the parts of it are held together by the exertion "of actual power, and not by the ſprings of an eſtabliſhed "conſtitution) would be unavoidably productive of con-"fuſion and loſs of revenue:" this reaſoning, ſo juſt as

Digitized by Google

a general principle, when applied to the particular instance before us returns with double force. Any direct attempt to supersede the authority of a Minister so powerful as Hyder Beg Khan, at a most critical season of the collections, and whilst every place of emolument or trust was in possession of a set of slaves, watchful of his least command, and entirely at his devotion, would indubitably have been attended with an accession of all those evils described by Mr. Hastings; and at a time too when the urgent necessities of the Nabob and the Company, and the impoverished state of their finances, would have made the consequences which must have followed these mischiefs particularly grievous to both. On the other hand, Gentlemen, I have chosen this time to make my representation and appeal to you with respect to the conduct of the Minister; First, because the season of the collections is almost expired, and consequently those weighty reasons, which before restrained me on this subject, are in great measure done away: again, because the period is now fast approaching, when the most material points in the wise system prescribed by the honourable the Governor General, must, if ever, be executed: and lastly, because it is clear to my understanding, that whilst Hyder Beg Khan shall preserve the uncontrolled dominion which he now possesses over these provinces, and the Sovereign of them, it will ever be in his power, as certainly it is in his intention, to oppose every attempt at reformation.

I trust, Gentlemen, you will not attribute it to any sufferance, or want of exertion in me, that the undue influence assumed by the Minister over the Nabob still exists in all its extent. I found him at my arrival in possession of so many natural and acquired advantages, which had been gathering strength for years, and which he knew so well to avail himself of, that I was very early convinced, should he ever prove refractory, nothing but unqualified deprivation could secure us against the mischievous effects of his influence, already too firmly fixed to be otherwise opposed or defeated. Yet it is not in the affections or the esteem of the Prince his master that this influence is established. The Nabob knows, and has told me, that if his provinces wore a face of general desolation and ruin, and his Court exhibited a speaking picture of penury, nakedness, and famine, Hyder was alone the author of all these calamities, and all this dishonour. Yet, unless he shall be encouraged to assert his rights by motives more powerful than the feelings of resentment, or the calls of humanity, the management of this artful minister will still prevent him from adopting any firm and dignified resolution, and he will contrive to perpetuate his thraldom, by exerting alternately his hopes and fears. These passions, whilst in equilibrium over the mind, keep it

Digitized by Google

it hesitating and undetermined—The resolutions of despair alone are unqualified and decisive.

My correspondence with Hyder Beg, relative to the Adaulut, is carried on in a tone of strong remonstrance on my part, and of shuffling and evasion on his, and furnishes voluminous and conclusive testimony of the wantonness of his disobedience: I have the honour now to enclose it, as also other letters and papers *; and to the whole, gentlemen, I must solicit your serious attention. They will explain to the honourable Board with how little effect I have endeavoured to engage the Minister to assist me in executing this so necessary a part of the honourable Governor General's new system, whilst he has suffered to prevail, and even himself affected to believe, the most injurious and wanton misrepresentations and reports relative to my intentions in this particular, and this too when he could no longer doubt, from the fullest explanations, that what I proposed on this subject was in literal obedience to your commands. Such reports I should at any other season, regard with the contempt, and pass over with the silence they deserve; but here they derive an importance from the occasion, since in their operation they may render more difficult an undertaking which is already sufficiently arduous, or afford a pretence to artful and designing men for future complaint and accusation. It is here necessary to inform you, that I do not find the circumstances respecting the Adawlut contained in the late Resident's address to the Board, dated the 21st September 1782, were stated on any sufficient grounds, with an exception only to the character of Molowy Mobeen: he is indeed a very reputable, learned, and honest man; yet these qualities could not shield him from the resentment of Hyder Beg Khan, with whom not the exercise of all the virtues, could atone for the inexpiable offence of shewing respect to your representative. The Molovie's own memorial and deposition, together with a recent instance of the same kind, will prove how little respect the Minister observes towards that authority from whose protection alone he derives his honours and his existence. The other instance which I allude to, and in which Hyder Beg peremptorily and publicly declared his determination to make any man who should presume to visit the English Resident, occured a very few days since in the presence of Raja Jaggernaut, the son-in-law of Raja Soonet Sing, the Vizier's Dewan, Raja Ticket Roy his own Naib, Meer Golaum Hussum, a physician, and many others. Thus it is, Gentlemen, that by attempting to shut up every source of information from me, he

* See all the Numbers.

Digitized by Google

shews his respect to the honourable * Governor General's commands, who has enjoined him to take no step without my knowledge and participation; and thus it is he insults and tramples upon the power which has raised, and which still supports him. Permit me to contrast with this conduct the incessant declarations contained in his letters to me, full of duty and attachment. His daring to introduce the name of the Nabob to excuse the neglect of his ministry, after the honourable Governor General had so pointedly explained to him in what light he should consider every such attempt, is mockery and insult. That he is all-powerful with the Vizier, is a fact of too great notoriety to be denied; and as every thing yet remains to be done, it furnishes an argument of his having wilfully neglected his duty, or betrayed his trust, which no sophistry can elude; nothing but a clear demonstration that I have failed in mine can save him from this charge; and here, gentlemen, it is my earnest intreaty, that I may be permitted to bring the question immediately to issue, by publicly defying him to the proof; and let me fall under your severest displeasure, and be subject to any punishment, or any dishonour, if it shall appear, after the strictest scrutiny, that I have not, in all my intercourse with the Minister, made the honourable Governor General's instructions undeviatingly the rule of my conduct, and endeavoured by every exertion of my abilities, and by the most indefatigable and an unwearied attention, to secure all those essential advantages they are intended to produce. If, on the other hand, you shall be ultimately satisfied that I have religiously acquitted myself of my duty, and laboured to the utmost of my power to promote your great designs, I trust, Gentlemen, you will take effectual measures to prevent their being hereafter liable to further check or impediment from the secret intrigues, or declared opposition of Hyder Beg Khan, or any of his adherents.

My proceedings relative to other parts of the honourable Governor General's new system will in due time be submitted to your consideration.

I have the honour to be, with profound respect,
Honourable Sir, and gentlemen,
Your most obedient and
very humble servant,
(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Lucknow,
the 13th May 1782.

A true Copy.
E. Hay,
Acting Sec. to the Secret Department.

* *No. 3. Ext. Governor General's Instructions.*

To

To Mr. Cowper.

Sir,

Reports, calculated to answer the worst purposes, having been circulated, grossly misrepresenting my intention in recommending to his Excellency the Nabob the institution of a Phouzdaty Adaulut at Lucknow, asserting that I had appointed you to the superintendance of this Court, and charging me in this appointment with a design to usurp and infringe his Excellency's rights of sovereignty; I am to request you will state the instructions you have received from me on this occasion, and your proceedings in consequence. I further desire you will fully explain what has been your conduct relative to such petitions concerning revenue, and other civil matters, as I may have referred to you.

I enclose for your information a translation taken of my Persian correspondence, on this subject, with the Minister Hyder Beg Cawn.

Lucknow, the 1st May 1783.

I am, Sir,
(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

To John Bristow, Esquire, Resident at the Court of Owde.

Sir,

I have been honoured by the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, acquainting me that reports had been industriously propagated, grossly misrepresenting your intentions in recommending to his Excellency the immediate institution of a Phouzdary Adaulut at Lucknow, and charging you with an attempt to usurp and infringe his rights of sovereignty, by appointing me to the superintendance of this Court.

A bare recital of the fact will prove that no such appointment ever existed, even in idea, and that your sole motive in this recommendation (if I have not utterly misunderstood you) was to restore peace and order to the capital, and security to its inhabitants, who in the absence of all magistracy, are now hourly exposed to assault and assassination, at the immediate residence and almost in the presence of their sovereign.

Soon after my arrival, you informed me that the honourable the Governor General, in his instructions to you, had marked the want of proper courts of justice as one of the most disreputable defects of the Vizier's government, and a principal cause of the general licentiousness which prevailed throughout his dominions. You may remember we were both fully sensible of the strength and justness of Mr. Hastings's subsequent reasoning with respect to the difficulty, and even danger, that would attend the abrupt application of

of a remedy, where the evil was univerſal. But on the other hand, as this very univerſality afforded a deciſive and unanſwerable proof of the neceſſity of ſome arrangement, you were induced by it to requeſt, whilſt your attention was engaged by objects of more immediate importance, that I would enquire and endeavour to aſcertain how far a reformation ſo neceſſary to the proſperity and happineſs both of the prince and people, might be effected with the leaſt poſſible inconvenience and delay.

In conformity to your wiſhes I ſent for Molowey Mubbin who had received your inſtructions to aſſiſt me, propoſing to enter with him into ſuch explanations as I judged beſt calculated to afford me a clear idea of the ſyſtem of juriſprudence now eſtabliſhed here; and conceiving, from his oſtenſible character of Sudder ul Huck, that he was the fitteſt perſon to point out the prevailing errors and abuſes of it, and to ſuggeſt the means of correcting them in time to come: But he aſſured me at once, that there neither was, nor (as far as he could learn) had there been for a length of years, even the ſhadow of a police through the whole extent of the Nabob Vizier's territories; and indeed the memorial the Molowy delivered me at the ſame time, and which I encloſe, is a decided teſtimony that his appointment was a mockery, and himſelf a pageant. It is needleſs to ſearch for other arguments in defence of this opinion; the idea of taking a ſchool-maſter from the ſeminary to which he had been immured from his earlieſt infancy, and placing him in the ſeat of juſtice, from whence he was to diſpenſe law to a whole people, and to unite in his perſon the civil and criminal juriſdiction of ſuch extenſive countries; I ſay, ſuch an idea is ſo full of ridicule, that it could never have been ſeriouſly entertained by any man pretending to common ſenſe; at the ſame time, having been ſeemingly adopted, it was an indication of the diſpoſition of the Miniſters at the Court of Owde, on the ſubject of Adawlets, too plain to be miſtaken; and I muſt confeſs I drew a concluſion from it, that at once induced me to augur very ill of our undertaking, and determined me to proceed in it with all warineſs and circumſpection; and in this reſolution and opinion I was not a little confirmed by the very extraordinary tenor of one, among the papers which you had ſent me, as ſuppoſing they might throw light upon the ſubject, when you firſt recommended it to my enquiry, it is the letter written to you by the Molowy upon your arrival; and as it may poſſibly have eſcaped your memory, I encloſe a tranſlation of it;—I therefore, after very mature deliberation, ſubmitted it to you, whether it would not be adviſeable to confine your views for the preſent to the inſtitution of a Phouzdary Court at the capital only, which, from the lawleſs ſtate of its inhabitants, was a meaſure of ſuch

Digitized by Google

evident expediency as thought could possibly be liable to no objections; and the benefits that would naturally arise from it, I hoped would make an impression upon the minds of the people, and prepare them to receive it hereafter as a general regulation. I was happy to find our sentiments on this subject entirely corresponded; you approved, and recommended it to his Excellency the Vizier, who was pleased to accede to the proposition, and to nominate Molowy Mubbeen to preside in the Court, an office he was very well qualified to fill, since the decrees of it would of course be regulated entirely by the law, as it is contained in the Coran; and here the matter rests to this hour, and to this hour the inhabitants of Lucknow are left in a condition of licentiousness, very near approaching to a state of nature; the interval, near two months, having been wasted in repeated, though hitherto fruitless, applications to Hyder Beg Cawn, on the subject of a house for holding the Court.

I believe it will be difficult for the most penetrating sagacity to discover, in this simple unadorned narrative of the fact, the slightest ground for complaint or apprehension; yet we are told the whole country is in alarm, and stricken with fear.—but how, or why? The Nabob has been humbly solicited to adopt a measure which had for its sole object the security and happiness of his people, and this, by the worthless part of his subjects, has been construed into an attempt to usurp and infringe his rights; and I, whose share in this transaction has been limited, God knows, to a few harmless researches, am represented as already in possession, by your sole appointment, of an authority which common sense must evince can be delegated by the Prince alone; I really, Sir, know not whether most to pity the folly, or despise the malice, of these contemptible slanderers.

And now I shall proceed to state my procedure with respect to the petitions mentioned in the last article of your letter. The minister has employed much art and labour to involve in darkness and difficulty that which in itself was most simple and evident, and utterly perverted the truth for the purpose of fixing upon me a charge of violence and usurpation; I trust, nevertheless, I shall prove my conduct to have been guarded, inoffensive, and upright. At the same time, the detail of argument necessary to expose and refute his sophistry, will, I am afraid, swell this address to a very unreasonable size; yet to you, Sir, I shall make no apology, as you must be sensible that such explanation, however tedious, is often the only shield which remains to the whitest innocence, against the secret and deadly shafts of calumny and falsehood.

It is hardly necessary to recall to your remembrance, that all I have done in this business had the sanction of your commands;

Digitized by Google

commands; but it may be of importance to remark, that Hyder Beg Khan was duly apprized I acted entirely under this authority, as is proved by your letter to him, dated the 7th of Jemmady ul Awul, a copy of which I inclose: It is therein mentioned that you had thought proper on this occasion to appoint Hussun Atta Beg to communicate between me and the minister; Hussun Atta Beg's deposition, therefore, will be very properly introduced here: The style of it is indeed widely different from that adopted by Hyder Beg in his address to you of the 14th of Jummady ul Awul—but, Sir, it is the language of truth, relating with the most scrupulous exactness and fidelity every circumstance of my management; and far from furnishing any proof of that despotic authority which the minister so peremptorily asserts was assumed by me, and extended over prince and people, it is indeed speaking evidence that all my efforts have been equally inoffensive and inefficient. To soften the heart of Hyder, and seek to charm by persuasion and entreaty to listen to the voice of justice and humanity, was indeed an idle hope; and since these are the only arms we have hitherto employed against him, it will not be matter of surprize that our enterprize should have miscarried. Could the minister only prove the twentieth part of the absurdity and violence with which he has charged my conduct in the letter above alluded to, I do most readily allow I should be very ill qualified for the situation I have now the honour to be placed in by the honourable the Governor General and Council; I shall therefore examine the contents of that letter throughout, and demonstrate upon what slight authority he has hazarded these wild and extravagant assertions. He talks there, Sir, of "proposing to the Nabob whether he should execute the business according to plans proposed by me, of the petitions under my signature, of mandates to the Aumils, and even of orders to his Excellency;"—and every syllable he says is romance. The deposition of Hussun Atta Beg, through whom alone I have had an intercourse with the minister, proves clearly that I never presumed to *prescribe*; agreeably to your desire I suggested to him my ideas, but with the utmost deference, always submitting them to his correction, and professing to be guided by his better judgment: He says, "I am ready to obey your commands, regarding the petitions to which Mr. Cowper has put his signature. As Hussun Atta Beg brought me a message from Mr. Cowper, that the Vizier's seal should be fixed to those identical petitions, I represented the circumstance to you, &c."—not true; and he well knows he cannot produce a single petition signed by me. The undisguised state of the case is this: As the petitions were referred to me, I had them read, and directed Hussun Atta Beg to write upon the face of them severally

Digitized by Google

ſeverally an order, ſuch as, had it finally reſted with me to ſettle them, I ſhould have iſſued upon the occaſion, and then bade him carry them to the miniſter; but I did not, as Hyder Beg Khan would wiſh it to be underſtood, magiſterially direct the Vizier's ſeal ſhould be affixed; on the contrary, as Huſſun Atta Beg has related, I requeſted the miniſter would decide upon the propriety of my ideas, and ultimately reject or adopt them, as he ſaw fit; and I choſe this mode of communicating them, rather than by letter, becauſe it was the ſimpleſt and readieſt; to have written a formal addreſs upon the ſubject of each complaint, would have been endleſs: I encloſe one of the petitions, it will beſt illuſtrate my meaning—ſuch were they all; and theſe are what Hyder Beg, both here and throughout his correſpondence with you, ſtudiouſly affects to call *petitions under my ſignature*, it is pretty evident with what intention; and really, Sir, I am aſhamed of him. He continues, "after his Excellency "went a hunting, Huſſun Atta Beg brought me a meſſage "requeſting I would put my own ſeal to the petitions." This propoſal, together with ſeveral others that have ſince been offered to his choice, each deviating from the other, he would wiſh to have conſidered as ſo many contradictions, hoping to fix upon us an imputation of wavering inconſiſtency; and in this idea he ſeems to triumph in his converſation with Huſſun Atta Beg; but neither will his logic avail him here, ſince no ſecond propoſal was ſubmitted to him till he had rejected the firſt; nor would a ſecond, even in that caſe, have been made him, could he have been prevailed upon by any entreaties to have ſubſtituted a plan of his own: But he affected, and ſtill pretends pertinaciouſly to adher to the mock appointment of Molowy Mubbein; and, ſpeaking of him, tells you with great gravity, "that "ſuch cauſes as had occurred were decided according to the "Mahometan law; that the *Regiſters* were in his poſſeſſion; "and that from the period of his appointment (a twelve-"month) all *diſputes* had been ſettled by him." Every thing within the compaſs of human impudence may be expected from the man who could openly hold this language to thoſe whom he muſt have been ſenſible were perfectly acquainted with the *Deſſous des Cartes*, and who were in poſſeſion of ſuch a memorial, written by the hand of the Molowy: For the reſt, that others may come to underſtand the Miniſter's character as well as we do, I muſt refer them to the aforeſaid memorial, and to the Molowy's declaration, that *all the diſputes* he has ever ſettled did not exceed thirty: Wonderful indeed! that in the courſe of twelve months only thirty complains ſhould have been preferred to the Daroga of the four Soubahs; yet this muſt have been the caſe, ſince, according to Hyder Beg's affirmation, the Molowy has

Digitized by Google

has settled *all disputes* that *have occurred* from *the period* of his *appointment*, and hence he would infer that your interposition upon the score of justice is wanton and impertinent. Is this a banter, Sir, or what is it?—He next observes, "whatever complaints were made against the Aumils, the "*greater part concerned English Sepoys* for the *remission of* "*rent*." It pains me to be here, again, under the necessity of flatly contradicting him. The petitions from English Sepoys were not for *remission* of rent, but to be *relieved* from the most *intolerable* and *unauthorized exactions*, and they are still extant; they do not compose the fiftieth part of the petitions, and so this subtle insinuation, like all the rest, loses its effect. And now, Sir, I come to the conclusion of his letter, it runs thus: "It was a delicate matter, and of the "first importance; when, in affairs relative to the capital, "Mr. Cowper issued orders to his Excellency, he also put "his signature to petitions, giving his mandates to the "Aumils in the style of a Sovereign Prince, &c." After this unprovoked and defamatory libel he will not expect I should treat his person with much ceremony or respect: Yet, were it not for the character of treachery so strongly marked in his conduct, I should really be moved to pity and forgive him. I am not vindictive, but I owe it to myself not to expose my reputation to future peril by passing in silence over the past. I am therefore under the necessity of denying, in the most positive and unqualified * forms, every syllable of the charge he has exhibited against me, and to establish which he has, as I have shewn, wickedly perverted and misrepresented facts. I directly affirm the whole to be a tissue of falsehoods and frothy declamation; and I desire, through you, to appeal to the honourable the Governor General and Council, whose province it is to protect innocence from insult; and this I do that my proud accuser may be compelled to the proof, and that to one of us there may be no retreat.

I have the honour to be, with great respect and esteem,

Lucknow, Your most obedient,
the 3d May 1783. humble servant,
(Signed) W. COWPER.

True Copies.
E. Hay,
Actg. Secy. to the Secret Dept.

Mr. Bristow's Representation relative to the institution of Adawluts in his Excellency the Vizier's dominions.

Very early after my arrival I mentioned the subject of the Phowzedarry Adaulut to Hyder Beg Cawn, who professed

* *Conformable to Original.*

Digitized by Google

a readineſs to join with me in eſtabliſhing it upon a reſpectable footing; he promiſed to procure a houſe for Molovee Mobine to hold his Court; I was, nevertheleſs, conſtantly told that the Vizier occupied all his houſes; tents and other articles were purpoſely diſperſed among them, in order to furniſh a plea for evaſions. My repeated and earneſt ſolicitations induced the miniſter to ſend for Molovee Mobine on ſome day at the end of the month of March, and take notice of him for the firſt time; he was preſented with a Dooley and five hundred rupees, as a conſideration for above ſeven months that he had nominally held the appointment. Twelve Sepoys were attached to his perſon, and he was told to receive a tent for his court of juſtice, and to exerciſe the functions of his office, without any other ſteps being taken to inveſt him with the neceſſary authorities.

On the 11th ultimo the miniſter informed me, that the Vizier had thought proper to allot a houſe for the court of juſtice; but at my next meeting with Molovee Mowbine, he acquainted me, that he had been to view the premiſes, which he found unfit for the purpoſe, being ſituated in the center of the palace, where his proceedings would be ſubject to reſtraint; that the place itſelf was too confined, and not eaſy of acceſs; and further, that goods belonging to his Excellency were depoſited in the houſe. So groſs an inſult from Hyder Beg Cawn, in attempting to impoſe upon my underſtanding by artifices too thin to furniſh a veil of deception, compelled me to take notice of his conduct, and I have expreſſed my ſentiments very freely to him in the courſe of our correſpondence.

I apprized Hyder Beg Cawn very fully of my intentions concerning the inſtitution of the Adaulut, notwithſtanding which, I was informed, to my great aſtoniſhment, that the whole town had taken the alarm, in conſequence of its having been maliciouſly and falſely propagated, "That "men of the firſt rank, and even the Vizier himſelf, "were ſubject to its arbitrary decrees; that his Excellency's "rights and prerogatives were infringed; that general com-"motions throughout the country would be the inevitable "conſequence; and finally, that Mr. Cowper was appoint-"ed the ſuperintendant." In order to ſatisfy the honourable Board of my earneſt wiſh to ſhew every reſpect to the Vizier's authority, and to confute theſe baſe aſperſions, I have called upon Mr. Cowper to explain his conduct; and the truth will appear upon a peruſal of that gentleman's narrative.

As the honourable the Governor General's inſtructions, relative to the inſtitution of Adauluts, reſts the matter in my diſcretion, it behoves me to explain the reaſons which have induced me to urge the meaſure. My motive for intruding this detail upon you, is not to evince the ſelf-evident

propoſition

Digitized by Google

propofition of their neceffity, but to guard againft any mifreprefentations, which may have been made by the minifter; fuggefting that the country is well governed, juftice already duly adminiftered, and confequently the inftitution of Adauluts needlefs. By what I can collect from the converfations that have lately paffed between us, thefe, and the infringement of the Nabob's rights and prerogatives, are the arguments upon which his objections will be founded; he will affert that Molovee Mowbine's authority is eftablifhed; but it is incumbent on me to inform you, that his proceedings are a mockery, like all the other incidents of the minifter's pretended obedience, he having no authority to enforce his decrees.

The annexed extract of my addrefs to the honourable the Governor General, concerning the ftate of the Vizier's dominions, will explain the confufion in which I found the government when I took charge of the Refidency, and how completely every channel for the redrefs of wrongs was ftopped: The communication between different parts of the Vizier's dominions was then interrupted, and travellers, except in large bodies, could not pafs in fafety; I have now the pleafure to inform you, that I have in fome meafure corrected thefe diforders, though no thing can effectually remove them, but the eftablifhment which I have fo urgently, but in vain, endeavoured to introduce. I here beg leave briefly to mention the leading principles upon which I wifhed to inftitute the Phouzedarry Adaulut.

1ft. The licentioufnefs of the dependants and favourites of the Vizier, the minifters, and other perfons in authority, has been a conftant fource of dread to the people; and it will not be the leaft arduous tafk appertaining to the duties of the Adaulut, to reftrain their conduct; they fhould doubtlefs be fubject to its jurifdiction.

2dly. The Adaulut fhould have no tendency to retrofpection, and confequently the minds of the people need be under no alarm on account of paft offences.

3dly. Perfonal fafety being the firft ftep towards relieving the country from a ftate of anarchy, and re-eftablifhing the Vizier's authority, thefe defirable advantages will be materially affifted by the inftitution of an Adaulut; and I cannot conceive how any commotions or dangerous confequences fhould refult from fuch an eftablifhment: On the contrary, the people muft rejoice at the fecurity they will derive from the Phouzedarry Adaulut. And,

4thly. The decifions of the Court to be guided, agreeable to the cuftoms of the country, by the precepts of the Hindoo and Mahommedan religions.

It is true Hyder Beg Cawn has, occafionally, when I have recommended the wrongs of perfons to his notice, procured the

the Vizier's orders to his Aumils for their redrefs; but thefe being in general difobeyed, as he was convinced they would be, did but increafe the evil, by expofing the weaknefs of government. At length, the complaints of the people increafing daily upon me, fo as to render it exceedingly irkfome to me to appear abroad, and to relieve my mind from the contemplation of calamities which I had not the power to remedy, I requefted Mr. Cowper to undertake the tafk of afcertaining the grounds of their feveral complaints, and refer fuch cafes as he deemed deferving of attention to the minifter's cognizance. Hyder Beg Cawn has on this occafion fhewn a difpofition to cavil at the fimpleft propofitions, and wilfully mifconftrues my intentions; the proof of which it is unneceffary for me to enter upon, as the circumftances are fully explained in Mr. Cowper's narrative, and the tranflation of my correfpondence.

It is evident, from the complaints which have hitherto come to my knowledge, tending in general to develope the violences and exactions committed by the Aumils, that notwithftanding the frequent balances of revenue which have occurred in the accounts of this government, the country is rackrented, and the collections have, upon an average, been rigoroufly enforced. I have invariably endeavoured to regulate my conduct fo as to avoid perfonal attacks; infifting, however, at the fame time, that juftice fhould be adminifter-ed, without diftinction or regard to rank or ftation. The minifter has conceived, as I fhould judge from his conduct, a miftaken opinion, that his dependants fhould be exempted from the penalties of any general regulation; and that to charge them with crimes, and inflict punifhment, upon conviction, is a diminution of his authority and confequence. It would be difficult to afcertain the extent of an evil of fo dangerous a tendency, when it is confidered that there are few men in power under this government who do not owe their fituation to his patronage.—This doctrine will explain the minifter's negligence in redreffing the grievances of individuals, and his violent oppofition to the truft I delegated to Mr. Cowper of enquiring into them.

I have advifed that in future the decifion of all difputes, relative to land or revenue, be confidered part of the duties of the office of Dewan; and that in civil cafes, where individuals only may be parties, the Aumils or other provincial magiftrates fhould decide. This is, in my opinion, the moft that can be done in the prefent ftate of the country.

Thefe regulations are, I conceive, agreeable to the letter and fpirit of the honourable the Governor General's inftructions to me; but the regular and firm eftablifhment of plans of fo important and extenfive a nature, muft be flow in its progrefs, and affifted by the fteady fupport of the

Digitized by Google

honourable Company's as well as the Vizier's Government.

At present the executive duties of every department of the state are vested in Hyder Beg Cawn, who appears determined to oppose every institution, however beneficical to society, that may in its effects deprive him of a part of his present uncontrouled and arbitrary power. Not content with holding the first place, he thinks it necessary to his consequence that the people should look to him, and him alone, as the sole mover of every measure, and the only person invested with the patronage of this Government, and that even the administration of justice should depend upon his will. I submit it to your judgment, gentlemen, if it be possible for any individual to discharge the duties of such complicated and extensive trusts.

Extract of a Letter from Mr John Bristow to the Honourable the Governor General, dated the 12th Dec. 1782.

First, *their Government*.

Despotism is the principle upon which every measure is founded, and the people in the interior parts of the country are ruled at the discretion of the Aumil or Phouzedar for the time being. They exercise, within the limits of their jurisdiction, the powers of life and death, and decision in civil and other cases, in the same extent as the Sovereign at the capital. The forms prescribed by the antient institutions of the Mogul empire are unattended to, and the will of the provincial magistrate is the sole law of the people.—The total relaxation of the Vizier's authority, his inattention and dislike to business, leave the Aumils in possession of this dangerous power, unawed and uncontrouled by any apprehension of retrospection, or the interference of justice; I can hardly quote an instance, since the Vizier's accession to the Musnud, of an Aumil having been punished for oppression, though the complaints of the people, and the state of the country, are notorious proofs of the violences daily committed—it is even become unsafe for travellers to pass, except in large bodies—murders, thefts, and other enormities shocking to humanity, are committed in open day.

Every Zemindar should be constituted the magistrate in his Zemindarry, and collect the revenues according to certain established rates recorded in the Cutcherry, and published throughout the district. The Aumil should be the controuling power between the Ryot and the Zemindar; should enforce the regulations; see peace and good order preserved in the several Zemindarries; and make the Zemindars accountable for all tumults, thefts, and murders, within

within their jurisdiction—in great towns there ought to be a Cutwaul or Haakeem to distribute justice.

Such has been the system of this government, that the oppressions have generally originated with the Aumils. They have been rarely selected for their abilities, or integrity; but from favour, or the means to advance a small sum upon their being appointed to their office, the Aumil enters upon his trust, ruined in his reputation and fortune, and unless he accomplishes his engagements, which is seldom the case, disgrace and punishment follow. Though the balance of revenue may be rigorously demanded of him, it has not been usual to institute any enquiry for oppression. The Zemindars, thus left at the mercy of the Aumils, are often driven to rebellion. The weak are obliged to submit to his exactions, or fly the country; and the Aumil, unable to reduce the more powerful, is compelled to enter into a disgraceful compromise. Every Zemindar looks to his fort for protection, and the country is crouded with them. Almass Allee Cawn asserts, there are not less than seven hundred in his districts; hence it has become a general custom to seize the brother, son, or some near relation or dependant of the different Zemindars, as hostages for the security of the revenue. A great Aumil will sometimes have three or four hundred of these hostages, whom he is obliged to confine in places of security.

A few men, like Almass Allee Cawn, and Khaujah ain ul Deen, have from their regularity in the performance of pecuniary engagements rendered themselves useful to the Vizier. A strict scrutiny into his affairs was at all times irksome to his Excellency; and none of the Ministers or officers about his person possessing the active persevering spirit requisite to conduct the detail of engagements for a number of small farms, it became convenient to receive a large sum from a great farmer without trouble or deficiency. This system was followed by the most pernicious consequences. These men were above controul; they exacted their own terms, and the districts they farmed were most cruelly oppressed; the revenue of Rohilcund is reduced above a third, and Almass Allee Cawn's administration is well known to have been extremely violent.

The foregoing representation of the state of this government will, I hope, satisfy you of the difficulty in collecting the revenues. A very strong military force will be required to preserve the country in peace; the number for which funds are at present allotted would, in my opinion, amply suffice, if it existed; but I suppose not two thirds of the men kept upon the books are actually entertained. The discipline and proper application of this force, will become a matter of serious consideration. I do not mean to pro-

Digitized by Google

pose, that they should be put under the command of British officers, as a very extraordinary expence would attend that measure, and I do not think the service of the collections would be so well executed. The troops now in the Vizier's service are ill paid, and ill appointed, not owing to the want of means; as I think when I shall forward you the statements I have so long been endeavouring to compleat, you will judge them adequate to every service, if not dissipated and squandered away. The evil originates in the want of checks to the disbursements to the army, and of proper officers and commissaries, to see them duly appropriated.

The same inconveniencies exist in the receipt of the Vizier's revenue, and other branches of his government in the general department; offices of collection and treasury, and courts for the administration of justice, ought doubtless to be established. In a duty of so delicate a nature as the execution of your commands on this head, I must necessarily expose myself to the opposition of persons interested in the continuance of the abuses.

Fourth, *Zemindars, and the Means taken to restore Peace.*

The collection of the revenue under the controul of the Aumils is entirely in the hands of the Zemindars, the lands throughout the country being in Talooks and Zemindarries.

The means taken to restore peace are explained in my letter to the Board of the 1st instant. The detachments from the honourable Company's troops I consider only a temporary expedient. I propose recommending that a separate plan for the administration of justice in all matters of revenue should be framed and carried into execution. You may perhaps make this branch part of the duties of th office of collections, and the Dewan will act in it, and appoint deputies in each Aumildarry.

Peace is by no means restored, for if the Company's troops were relieved from the places at which they are now stationed, I should expect that the commotions would be renewed. Gorruckpore, Beraitch, Sultanpore, Azim Ghurr, Ghouda, and all the frontiers, are provinces in which the Vizier's authority is ill-established. In some of them there are troubles at this time. New detachments of the honourable Company's troops might be adviseable, if the state of affairs in other respects did not render the appearance of a formidable force on the frontiers necessary, as well to awe foreign powers, as to keep Almass Allee Cawn, and Khaugah ain ul Deen, within the line of their duty.

Extract

Digitized by Google

Extract of the Honourable the Governor General's Instructions to the Resident, dated the 23d October 1782.

Adauluts.—In this last description I include the Adauluts; you will find them recommended, but conditionally, in my instructions to Mr. Middleton.

It is certain that the want of them, and the universal and extreme licentiousness occasioned thereby, is one of the most disreputable defects of the Vizier's government; yet I much doubt whether, introduced into such a state at once and abruptly, they would not add to the mischiefs they were intended to redress; for perhaps there is scarce an individual who would not become immediately obnoxious to their authority, and I fear scarce an individual capable of discharging even a small portion of their decrees. While they do not exist, every man knows the hazard he incurs in lending his money; the establishment might tend to deceive, by holding out the appearance of false assurances; and, with respect to oppressions of every species, unless each court was armed with a strong military force, it would not be in their power to prevent or punish them; neither in that case is it certain, that they would not prove themselves the greatest instruments of oppression.

The Aumils in the first instance, and the Munduls or

Extract of the Resident's Letter to the Honourable the Governor General, dated the 12th December 1782.

Fifth Head, Offices } The institution of Adauluts will be attended with the utmost difficulty; the reasons you have yourself assigned are so forcible, that I have only to trouble you with a few hints in corroboration of your own opinions.

The Nabob, the ministers, and every man of rank at this court, will be interested in opposing the institution of courts of justice. The Nabob is surrounded by persons who presuming upon the countenance they receive from him, commit every kind of oppression. They are generally men of low birth, suddenly raised to power and consequence, which they are ignorant how to use. The ministers have more creditable dependants, but these presume in an equal degree on their influence. The resumption of Jaghyrs, and reduction of salaries, have unavoidably involved numbers of people in debt, which has led to the commission of violences.

To institute courts of justice upon a respectable footing, they should extend to men of all descriptions. The favourites and dependants of the Nabob and ministers, long accustomed to live independant of all controul, will not easily be brought

Digitized by Google

Chiefs of the villages ultimately, must supply this defect, if it cannot be otherwise remedied. I merely intimate this subject to you as proper for enquiry and consideration, but cannot give you any instructions concerning it.

brought to submit to a regular jurisdiction.

I would however propose, that Molovee Mowbine, the man recommended by Mr. Middleton, should continue, with the name of Sudder ul Huck, and when regularity shall be introduced into other branches of the government, the extension of his power will form part of the plan.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

A true Copy,
E. Hay,
Actg. Secy. to the Secret Dept.

Secret Consultation, 29*th May* 1783.

MEMORIAL of Molewy Mahmud Mubbeen.

These are the facts.—It had been ever the custom of my ancestors to teach and explain the sciences. They were held in honour and respect by Kings and Princes. In imitation of them I was myself employed in fulfilling the duties of my College. I had no intercourse with the great. In the month of Zuada Mr. Middleton sent for me, and informed me that it was the honourable Governor General's pleasure that I should go and take charge of the Adaulut at Benares. As I was very averse to all worldly affairs, I represented to Mr. Middleton that the Adaulut was a charge of great moment, that it befitted not me, and that I entreated I might be permitted to decline it. He granted my request. At the expiration of four months, on the 9th of Rubbyussany, just after dark, the Cutwaul Ummoo came to me, saying, will you not embark in a business which has for its object the happiness of mankind; a whole world will be destroyed on your refusal? Relate, said I, the particulars. There was (he answered) to day a Council upon the subject of the Adaulut, and the choice has fallen upon you; let me know whether you consent? I was filled with concern at his report, and bade him leave me in my present situation; at the same time flatly refusing to have any concern with the Adaulut. He returned in the morning and intreated me, as I held him for my friend, to agree to his proposal. I again refused him. He assured me there was no intention to make the Adaulut a burthen to me; that I should still continue to perform the duties of my school in all quiet; and

Digitized by Google

and that having enquired the law from me, the executive part of the administration of justice should be transferred to others; and if I persisted in my refusal I should highly offend the men in power, and do myself much mischief. I told him, that if I was certain that every thing would be done according to law, and that no oppression would be suffered, no interference or recommendation where justice was concerned, and (agreeable to the practice of Kings) that all respect would be observed towards me, that then, and to preserve my honour, I would submit. He informed me, that his Excellency the Nabob, Hyder Beg Khan, and Rajah Tuket Roy, had subscribed to these conditions. During this conversation, the Cauzey Mahmud Tucky and Shaw Sultaun came to me from Hyder Beg Khan and the Rajah. The Cauzy told me that Hyder Beg Khan sent his compliments, and earnestly requested I would accept the employment, he having the very best opinion of my honour and integrity, and knowing no person so well qualified for it as myself. I still persisted in my refusal, when the Cauzy whispered me, that if I offended the Minister and the rest, it would be the cause of evil to me. I answered, that this was an act of necessity. The Cauzy told me that what was proper to be said on the subject he would say to Hyder Beg Khan. Next Shaw Sultan addressed me from the Raja, acquainting me, that he presented his respects, and besought me to listen to his request. I told him how greatly I was averse; and begged, if the Raja had any friendship for me, that he would spare me; but Shaw Sultan observed, that this refusal was improper. I am, said I, without remedy;—and here the matter rested near four months, when it was revived on the 17th of Jummady-ussauny, by a message from Suket Roy, who sent me a Miana, informing me that the Minister was gone to the Durbar, and that I must attend him. I was very angry, and replied, that it was impossible I should attend the Durbar; they notwithstanding sent the Cutwaul to fetch me, however much I entreated first to speak a few words to him, and that then I would go to the Nabob; he would not listen to me. When I arrived in the presence I found there Surforauze ud Dowla, Hyder Beg Khan, and Raja Tuket Roy. Hyder Beg addressed me thus: I am commanded by his Excellency to inform you, that he has the utmost confidence in your probity and talents; that he considers you as perfectly qualified for such an office; and that he has in consequence appointed you to administer justice *throughout his dominions*. I answered, that no decrees, but such as were in strict conformity to the law, and to justice, would be given by me; that I should shew partiality to no man; and that I called upon God to preserve my faith. I at the

same time observed, that it rested with his Excellency to enforce orders. He was himself graciously pleased to encourage me to act with firmness and confidence, assuring me that none should presume to disobey me, and directing me forthwith to depute my own Naibs to Fyzabad, and other stations. He then bestowed upon me a pair of shawls and goshwara, and having received four rupees from Raja Tuket Roy, I presented them as a Nuzzer to his Excellency, and retired. Hyder Beg being returned, gave me great encouragement, and desired I would go to Mr. Middleton and Mr. Johnson. I went immediately to wait upon both gentlemen, accompanied by the Rajah, and requested of Mr. Middleton that he would do me the favour to issue the necessary orders. He replied, that if it was agreeable to his Excellency, it would also be agreeable to him. Mr. Johnson observed, it was extremely proper that there should be law and justice; and that he had heard good report of my learning and knowledge, and fidelity and integrity. I observed, that it rested with them to expedite the order. They answered, that orders conformable to the Nabob's pleasure would be issued; and so, being dismissed, I returned home. It was no sooner public that I had been appointed to administer justice throughout the four Soubahs than numberless complaints poured in upon me. Now inasmuch as I had no establishment whatever, I was in a terrible dilemma; I therefore addressed myself to Surferauz ud Dowla, representing, that I had been unjustly plunged into this misery; —that I had neither Naib or assistants, that my school would also be ruined: and that it was impossible I should perform what I had undertaken. Surferauz ud Dowla spoke to Raja Tucket Roy upon the subject, who told him that he would appoint me a Naib, who should relieve me from all the trouble of the Adaulut; and that I might regularly attend my school. He nominated the aforesaid Ummo Cutwaul to this department, who came and took his seat in my house, enquired the law, settled the disputes, end having so done, exacted a fourth part from the plaintiff, and fees of summonses, &c. from the defendant. I declared this proceeding to be illegal, and that a covenant against injustice had been made with me; and I commanded him to abstain from such practices. He insisted it was no business of mine; that it was not I who took the money; that it belonged to government, and that he had orders of the government for what he did—That he should discharge the wages of the Peons from the amount, and the surplus he should pay into the Exchequer. I told him, that for my own part, nothing should induce me to receive a single cowry of money so obtained. The Cutwal went and informed Rajah Tuket Roy, who assured me it was an old custom;

Digitized by Google

custom; that the money belonged to government, and that I should not be desired to receive any of it. I replied, that no such practices should be carried on in my house; that they might enquire the law of me, but they must find some other place for the Naib to collect in. He said he would appoint a house for holding the court contiguous to mine, and thus two months elapsed: when it was notoriously public that the Naib of the Adaulut took bribes, Roshun Chobdar informed Hyder Beg of the fact, and an oilman, from whom he had exacted a hundred rupees, insisted to be allowed to make his complaint to the Nabob. It was in vain that I represented and remonstrated against the disgrace of this procedure: nobody attended to me. It happened that I was taken ill, and so continued a month; upon my recovery, having come to a full knowledge of all this infamy and oppression, I resolved to relinquish my office absolutely, and so I plainly told Mr. Johnson, who had referred some complaints to my decision, and in consequence sent my resignation in form to Hyder Beg; observing, that I had been most injuriously branded, and accused of corruption. I received no answer. It happened, that these events came to the knowledge of Mr. Johnson, who sent for me, and enquired particularly into all the circumstances, which I faithfully related to him to him. He directed me to take *his* people, and enforce my orders according to law. I observed, that it became not me to take *his* people, I who had so long lived under the protection of his Excellency, and that I should be marked as a turbulent man. He replied, I understand you. Soon after Mr. Middleton returned from Cawnpore, and wrote to me, desiring I would send him a list of the Adaulut establishment. I represented, in answer, that it was now five months, and no one step had yet been taken towards an establishment; that the name of a court of justice indeed remained, but those who were to have assisted in executing its decrees had long since absconded, as they could not possibly exist without pay. He again wrote to me, and directed me to attend him; which I did, and he then ordered me to furnish him with any requisitions I might have made on this subject to the Minister, I obeyed him, and delivered the papers. The people of the city gave me to understand, that by visiting the English Gentlemen I should extremely incense against me the people in power; having no remedy, I went to Hyder Beg's, to enter into an explanation with him on this subject. He was at home, but he sent me word he was sick, and I must come to-morrow; upon which I wrote to him, stating that I had something of importance to represent to him. The next morning, when the Minister went to wait on Mr. Middleton, that gentleman put into his hands the papers

relative

Digitized by Google

relative to the Adaulut, and desired him to send for me, and adjust the business to my satisfaction. I attended Hyder Beg Khan in consequence, and told him the circumstances relative to the fees and bribes, representing at the same time the illegality of such proceedings. He assured me it was none of his doing, and that now he had absolutely abolished the fees, &c. throughout his Excellency's dominions, and that nothing of the kind would occur in future; he further directed me to name a stipend, such as would enable me to appear with proper dignity; but this I declined, desiring to refer it to his and Mr. Middleton's decision. Mr. Middleton afterwards proposed to him, that my salary should be fixed at three thousand rupees a month, and that I should have a Palankeen, &c. but Hyder Beg refused his assent. Mr. Middleton then informed me of his proposal, with the Minister's rejection of it. In the course of these debates no provision whatever was made for the people, whom I fairly told they had little to hope, as the fees were abolished, and no other mode of paying them substituted; at length the Cutwaul discharged what was due on this account to the end of Rumzaun, and the same night I suspended him from his office, and the officers of the court dispersed. Now as I continued to visit my friends as usual, I frequently heard the inhabitants as I passed, cry "Behold the Daroga "of the Adaulut trudging on foot through dirt and mire!" a circumstance which did not a little distress me; but what is past is past. In the mean time Mr. Middleton departed, and Mr. Bristow arrived: going twice or thrice to pay my respects to him as Sudder ul Huck, and not being able to procure a Meana, I was compelled to go on foot; the distance was a coss, and it fatigued me exceedingly. I therefore, as I had no access to Hyder Beg Khan, represented this circumstance to Surferauze Uddowla, and entreated for heaven's sake he would exonerate me from this mock title of Superintendant of the Adaulut, that I might escape the distresses that were attached to it. Surferauze Uddowla gave notice of my situation to Rajah Nunderam, and at the same time directed his own Daroga to furnish me with a Meana, and on the first of Rubby Ussauny Hyder Beg Khan, did me the favour to send me one by a servant of Rajah Nunderam's. I waited upon him, and informed him of Mr. Bristow's having spoken to me on the subject of the Adaulut; Hyder assured me it was also his wish to see justice prevail, neither was he himself exempt from the law, but as for such an establishment as Mr. Johnson and Mr. Middleton proposed, it was impossible. The rest you know.

A true Translation.

(Signed) W. COWPER.

The

Digitized by Google

The deposition of Hussun Atta Beg.

The first day (7th of Jummady) ulawul) Mr. Cowper sent for me, and gave me a letter under the seal of Mr. Bristow, for Hyder Beg Khan, together with several petitions of complaint, some coming from the city, and others from the provinces, and directed me to deliver them and the letter to Hyder Beg Khan, and request, in his name, that he would give such orders with respect to the petitions, as should seem good to him, and agreeable to the custom of this country; and that in those relating to the provinces, he would be pleased to procure his Excellency's letters to the several Aumils that they might be settled accordingly, and information of them having been so settled transmitted to his Excellency: Touching those complaints which were preferred by persons in the city, Mr. Cowper requested the minister would be pleased to settle them himself, and he at the same time directed me to receive Hyder Beg's commands relative to the time he would chuse I should attend him for the transaction of this business. I executed my commission —Hyder Beg Khan directed me to leave the petitions with him, that he would the next day inform his Excellency of the circumstances, receive his orders, and afterwards make his report to Mr. Bristow, and bade me attend him in the evening. I returned, and related, what had passed to Mr. Bristow and Mr. Cowper. A second time Mr. Cowper sent me to Hyder Beg, desiring me to say to him, that if there was any objection to, or difficulty in, procuring his Excellency's letters, that he thought the Nabob's seal affixed to the petition itself (the necessary order being first written upon the face of it) would answer every purpose, and ensure obedience from the Aumils. I waited upon Hyder Beg acccordingly, who in answer again told me, it was very well, and that he would represent the business to his Excellency, and inform Mr. Bristow, in the morning, of his pleasure. In the mean time his Excellency set off upon a hunting party. Again Mr. Bristow and Mr. Cowper directed me to inform Hyder Beg of their request; that it would be sufficient if he (who was the acting minister) would be pleased to affix his seal alone to the petitions, provided there was any objection to the former proposal relative to that of the Nabob's. Hyder Beg Khan in answer observed, that he was not aware of his Excellency's departure, but that, if it was the pleasure of the gentlemen, he would address a letter upon the subject to the Nabob, or, if they preferred it, wait his return, and then represent the matter to him, and let them know his Excellency's pleasure. With this reply I returned to Mr. Bristow and Mr. Cowper. These gentlemen soon after delivered me the copies of several petitions, and ordered me to

Digitized by Google

wait

wait upon Hyder Beg Khan, and procure from him the Nabob's letters to the Aumils, enclosing the aforementioned copies. When I hadpreferred this request he spoke thus to me: "You first brought me a message that I should obtain his Excellency's letters. You delivered a second, that if there was any difficultyinprocuring his Excellency's letters, that his seal affixed to the petitions would answer the purpose. Again you told me, from the gentlemen, that if the Nabob's seal could not be procured, my own would be sufficient. And lastly, you bring me word, that it is their desire that the copies of the petitions should be enclosed in his Excellency's letters." I answered it was very true, I had certainly delivered the messages he mentioned. He then demanded concerning the original petitions; I told him Mr. Cowper had them: Then it follows, said he, Mr. Cowper is to transact this business. True, Sir, answered I; as you say, so it appears. The messages I had in charge to deliver to you were to the purport I have stated, and I shall faithfully return your answers, and I have nothing further to say on the subject. He then desired I would assure the gentlemen he should never reject their commands, and that he would prepare and deliver the letters to Mr. Bristow in person.

A true Translation.

(Signed) WM. COWPER.

A true Copy,

E. Hay,

Actg. Secy, to the Secret Dept.

Translation of a letter from Mr. John Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn, dated the 23d Rubbee ul Sany 1197 Hegira.

It is a period of six months since the cause concerning the sons of Mahommed Ally has been referred to the Addalut, Molovee Mahommed Mowbine expounded the law of the Khoran, "the sons were accountable for the debts of the "father, with the proviso of his leaving sufficient property "to pay them—the complainant should identify the pro-"perty, or forfeit his claim." I have in this manner a thousand people making daily complaints to me—a circumstance highly disgraceful both to his Excellency and the English. It is incumbent on you to devise means of establishing some mode for the administration of justice.—I will explain my sentiments to you on the subject at our next meeting.

Translation of a letter from Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn, dated the 7th of Jemâd ul Owul 1197 Hegira.

I before represented to you, that I was much distressed by the number of complainants who perpetually surrounded me,

I am

Digitized by Google

I am now obliged to repeat this representation, and to obſerve, that it is abſolutely neceſſary to adopt ſome mode of doing them juſtice: I have therefore referred ſuch petitions as have been preſented to me to Mr. Cowper, and I requeſt that you and he will take meaſures for adjuſting their complaints, to which end Mr. Cowper will communicate to you through Huſſum Atta Beg.

Tranſlation of a letter from Hyder Beg Cawn, in anſwer to Mr. Briſtow's letter of the 23 Rubbee ul Sany.

I have received your favour, and in regard to the affair of the Addâlut ſhall yield obedience to whatever you may think proper to direct. Molovy Mobine is appointed to the office, and I will eſtabliſh him on any fôoting you ſhall pleaſe to order.

Tranſlation of a letter from Mr. Briſtow to Hyder Beg Cawn, dated the 14th Jemmad ul Owul 1197.

Some days ſince Myr Mahommed Huſſa Atta Cawn went to you on the part of Mr. Cowper, and returned with a meſſage, that "after you ſhould have repreſented the affair "to his Excellency, orders would be iſſued." I informed you, in reply, that for the diſpatch of buſineſs of this nature, your ſeal to the Arzees, or a Perwannah or letter in your name to the Aumils, would ſuffice. To this propoſition I was not favoured with any anſwer; in conſequence of which the whole buſineſs has been ſuſpended. It is uncertain whether his Excellency will return ſoon; as the complainants are numerous, and other matters are alſo protracted, I muſt trouble you to iſſue your own Perwannahs or letters to the Aumils, to render juſtice to the oppreſſed, that there may be no delay in expediting neceſſary matters. If you ſhould entertain any objections to this propoſition, be free in communicating them to me, I eſteem your friendſhip ſuperior to every other conſideration. It is my opinion you have authority in theſe matters; you nevertheleſs poſtpone the execution of them until his Excellency's return. It is with ſincerity and ſatisfaction that I ſhew the moſt profound reſpect to his Excellency, and certainly conſider it adviſeable not to tranſact affairs in general, except with his approbation: It would however be endleſs labour to his Excellency to inſpect orders concerning the current buſineſs, ſuch as directions to Aumils to make enquiry into complaints of oppreſſion, which ought to be diſpatched off hand, having the good of humanity for their ſole object.

It is my ſincere wiſh that, in conformity to the honourable the Governor General's commands, I ſhould regulate all matters with your participation.

Tranſlation

Digitized by Google

Translation of a letter from Hyder Beg Cawn, in answer, of the same date.

I am ready to obey your commands regarding the petitions to which Mr. Cowper has put his signature, as well as in ever other matter. As Hussan Atta Cawn brought me a message from Mr. Cowper, that the Vizier's seal should be affixed to those identical petitions, I represented the circumstances to you, and requested your commands, whether I should apply to his Excellency on the subject; to which you replied, that until the affair of the Addalut should be properly settled, it was unnecessary to it. After his Excellency went a hunting, Hussan Atta Cawn brought me a message, requesting I would put my own seal to the petitions. I replied, that I would first ask your commands. I represented to you, that Molovy Mowbine was appointed to the Addalut, and such causes as had occurred were decided according to the Mahommedan law. The Registers have been delivered to me from the period of his appointment; *all disputes* have been decided by him. The Molovy's decrees have been executed. Whatever complaints were made against the Aumils, the greater part of which concerned English Sepoys for the remission of rent, either his Excellency's Shokas, or my letters, have been given to the complainants, and justice administered where it was due; this same mode is still in force: I will give stronger injunctions than ever concerning these matters, and of the first importance; when in affairs relative to the capital, Mr. Cowper issued orders to his Excellency, he also put his signature to petitions, giving his mandates to the Aumils in whose jurisdictions the particular incidents occurred, in the style of a Sovereign Prince. I request to know your commands, whether I should represent the circumstance to his Excellency, and propose executing the business according to the forms prescribed by Mr. Cowper.

Translation of a letter from Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn, dated 17th Jemmad ul Owul 1197.

From the intelligence communicated to me by my people, I understand that the inhabitants in general are alarmed at the institution of an Addalut. To dispel those alarms, which are totally groundless, I think it necessary to apprize you of the truth. I wish that the Addalut should be instituted in a manner to prevent thefts and murders as far as it be possible to do it. I am informed that they are daily committed in the city of Lucknow, and its neighbourhood. I have repeatedly troubled you with my sentiments, that it was highly necessary to put a stop to those disorders.

Extract

Digitized by Google

Extract of a letter from Hyder Beg Cwan to Mr. Bristow, of the same date.

In answer to your orders regarding the Addalut, I stated to you the mode of establishing it. Whatever regulations you now think proper to order, I shall shew my obedience to.

Translation of a letter from Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn, dated the 26th Jemmad ul Owul 1197.

I understand the house allotted for the Fousdarry Addalut it totally unfit for the purpose; it is filled with furniture and goods belonging to the Vizier, and situated in the centre of the palace. It is necessary that you should fix on a proper house in the town of Lucknow, the one you have selected shews that you are trifling with me.

Mr. Cowper before sent you, by Hussum Atta Cawn, several petitions agreeable to the inclosed list; you will please to return them by the bearer, that I may prepare drafts of Shokas in his Excellency's name, or letters in your's to the Aumils, whichever may be the properest, directing enquiry to be made into the complaints.

Translation of a letter from Hyder Beg Cawn to Mr. Bristow, of the same date.

I have been honoured with your letter. His Excellency directed that the Court of Justice should be held in the palace. The house allotted for the purpose is so extensive, that all the offices under the Duân were formerly kept in it. All Cutcherries have invariably been held in the palace. The Duanny Cutchery is held in a burradarry belonging it; his Excellency has thought proper to arrange matters in this manner. There is a passage of egress and regress, and the people cannot be interrupted from passing and repassing. I will, agreeable to your orders, apply to his Excellency to allot another house for the Uddalut.

According to your commands I return the petitions which have Mr. Cowper's signature.

Translation of a letter from Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated the 27th Jemmad ul Owul 1197.

I have received your letter concerning "your intentions of soliciting his Excellency to allot a house for the Uddalut in the City of Lucknow." The case stands thus:—Molovy Mowbine has held his appointment near a year. Notwithstanding I have repeatedly troubled you concerning a house, specifying that called after Sheir Jung, as well as many

Digitized by Google

many others fit for the purpose, which were empty, none have as yet been granted. The two rooms you selected in his Excellency's palace are totally unfit for the Court of justice; and previous to the granting Molovy Mobine the said two rooms, you desired him to erect a tent. You, my good Sir, who are a wise man, and knowing in the ways of the world, have after infinite delay, determined on granting a tent for a Court of Justice. My friendship for you is firm; but it is absolutely necessary to tell you the plain truth. When I before had the honour to reside at his Excellency's Court, and there was no intermediate agent between us, I never received a refusal to a single requisition; now that the business is conducted through you, I have experienced a total change in his Excellency's disposition. If it be true that ill-intentioned men counteract your advice to his Excellency, it is necessary such people should be dismissed from his Councils; and as you have particularized Myrza Hassim, it is consistent with our friendship that he should not be employed in transactions between his Excellency and you. You should also devise means of having him expelled. The year is nearly expired, and this is the time for making the general arrangement for the better settlement of the Vizier's affairs, when both his Excellency's and the honourable the Governor General's friends will be put to the trial. Most certain is it, the man who proves his attachment and fidelity will be continued and receive favour, particular reasons have prevented me from compleating the general system: The period now approaches for carrying into execution; if it be conteracted, the offence will be considered as a breach of the honourable the Governor General's orders, and I shall be disgraced; the well-wishers and dependants of both Governments, particularly you, Sir, should give their hearty assistance.

The Fousdarry Áddâlut is not a new business, otherwise I should not be so particular in my explanations.

Translation of a letter from Mr. Bristow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated the 29th Jemmad ul Owul 1197.

Molovy Mowbine this day gave me to understand, that contrary to the intentions I had expressed in the letter I had the honour to address you the day before yesterday, that you had directed him in harsh language to commence upon the administration of justice in the Burradarry; you accused him of being the author of the information I had received on that head, as also of representing to me that he had not been invested with any authority. The Molovy is greatly alarmed at your treatment of him, and has again represented his fears and apprehensions to me. In your letter of the 26th you

you promise to apply to his Excellency concerning a house; this is the 29th, and in breach of your promise you hold such extraordinary language to the Molovy as excites my surprize.

The truth is, that several people have both written and sent messages to me, setting forth their dread of visiting me on your account. A few days since you publicly asserted, before a large company, that whoever visited *a certain person*, meaning the Resident, should feel the consequences.

As you are considered to be the honourable Company's dependant, it is my opinion that you have been very deficient in your duty and attachment to the honourable the Governor General, in expressing your sentiments so haughtly to Molovy Mowbine, and in discouraging people from visiting me. I flatter myself, that in the execution of the honourable Company's business, and for the benefit of his Excellency's affairs, I shall on every occasion receive your hearty support; and that the dependants and well-wishers of both governments will unite in testifying their zeal and fidelity. I have uniformly made my representations to his Excellency through you; and I have strictly adhered to my instructions in all transactions: Touching the Fousdarry Addâlut I have only in view the good of humanity, and the bringing to condign punishment thieves and murderers. As the mode of acting which you have prescribed to the Molovy is personally disgraceful to him, it appears impracticable that he should by such means be able to exercise the duties of his office. From the regard I bear you, I think it necessary to apprize you I shall consider any ill-treatment of Molovy Mowbine, as a breach of our friendship, the Molovy's life and honour being under my protection. I protest against the consequences of the delays which have occurred in the establishment of the Addâlut; and I repeat my request, that a proper house may be delivered over to his charge.

As I mean to transmit our correspondence on this subject to the honourable Governor General, I beg the favour you will return me an answer to every particular.

Translation of a letter from Hyder Beg Cawn, in answer.

I have been favoured with your letter, and am much astonished at its contents. Notwithstanding I give regular attendance, you listen to misrepresentations, without ascertaining the truth, and charge me with blame; under such circumstances it is impossible for me to do my duty; in this manner blame has been injuriously thrown upon me. I only enquired of the Molovy concerning his representations, in order to prove to you that I had discharged my duty,

Digitized by Google

and upon that ground plead my defence, as the circumſtances alledged againſt me were ill-founded.

You have informed me that, inſtead of a houſe I ordered a tent for the Uddalut; thus eſtabliſhing a charge of folly againſt me. My reaſons for propoſing a tent, I yeſterday explained to you; you ordered a houſe to be given to the Molovy, whilſt his Excellency was upon a hunting party. The Molovy ſent me a meſſage that his own houſe was too ſmall, and it would be well if ſome other were granted him. I returned for anſwer, that "I had applied to the Vizier, and recommended to the Molovy to pitch a tent for two or four days near his preſent habitation, until I might receive his Excellency's orders." Theſe words were repreſented to you, as if I had not exerted my endeavours. I could never propoſe that a court of juſtice ſhould be held in a tent in the city. When his Excellency thought proper to grant a houſe, the Molovy informed me, that Mr. Cowper had directed him to furniſh him with a plan of it. I ordered the Molovy to go and ſee the houſe; and he reported, that it was large, and fit for the purpoſe. He ſaid, he ſhould hold his court in it on the 1ſt of Jemmad ul Sany, which was a lucky day; and he further obſerved, there was another apartment adjoining to it, if that alſo were granted him it would be better. I promiſed he ſhould have it, though it was the Duan's Cutcherry. This too has been repreſented to you as a neglect of my duty, and as if I wiſhed to allot two rooms for the court of juſtice. I enquired of the Molovy concerning the fact; and he informed me, That "the "building was extenſive, and he would begin to hold his "court on the 1ſt of Jemmad ul Sany." I made theſe enquiries to relieve myſelf from blame in a matter in which I do not deſerve it. I have endeavoured to ſatisfy the Molovy by every means in my power. He long ſince aſked me, if a perſon be convicted of a crime deſerving corporal puniſhment, whether he ſhould proceed "according to the rigour "of the Mahommedan law?" I replied, that he ought, doubtleſs, to execute puniſhment agreeable to the precepts of the Khoran; and that I ſhould conſider myſelf ſubject to the juriſdiction of the court: pleaſe to examine the Molovy upon oath concerning theſe facts. His Excellency has, out of favour, thought proper to aſſure Molovy Mowbine of his protection. Do me juſtice in this buſineſs, and anſwer me candidly, how I can be any way to blame. I ſhall comply with your orders, by applying this day to his Excellency for a ſeparate houſe, and communicate his pleaſure to you.

In anſwer to your aſſertion, that I intimidate people from coming to viſit you, it is incumbent on you to enquire into the truth. I am always obedient to your commands, and

and attend your pleaſure. How could I then intimidate people from viſiting you? Let the perſons who aſſert ſuch ſtories, be confronted with me. For theſe ſix years I have invariably diſcharged my duty, and executed every order the Engliſh Gentlemen have given me, and have never been guilty of any crime. I am ignorant how people now repreſent my conduct to you. Notwithſtanding my ſenſe of ſubmiſſion, obedience, and attachment, have led me to tranſact affairs by your orders, contrary to his Excellency's pleaſure, you, in theſe affairs, even charge me with blame, at the inſtigation of ill-intentioned perſons, and never take the trouble to enqure into the truth. How can I, who am ſubordinate to you, live on ſuch terms? Be pleaſed to give permiſſion, that I may remain night and day among your attendants. To the beſt of my knowledge, I have, with my life, even ſhewn the moſt implicit obedience to your orders. I claim no merit except what you are pleaſed to give me.

In conſequence of orders Molovy Mowbine received from you, he has juſt been to wait upon me. He ſays, that you have directed him not to hold the court of juſtice in his Excellency's palace; and at all events, are determined. Regarding this matter, I told him we were ſubject to your orders, and muſt obey.

Tranſlation of a Letter from Mr. Briſtow to Hyder Beg Cawn; dated the 30th Jemmad ul Owul 1197.

I have been honoured with your letter concerning the Fouſdarry Addâlut. Molovy Mowbine will, doubtleſs, from neceſſity, aſſent before you to any propoſition you may make him. He does it out of reſpect to your ſtation, and from a conviction that you are not diſpoſed to aſſiſt in the eſtabliſhment of a court of juſtice. After his fears have been excited by harſh language, he can follow no other line of conduct; out of regard to the Molovy, I directed him not in any reſpect to deviate from your pleaſure; but report his proceedings to me, that I might in a mild way converſe upon the ſubject with you, when I was fully convinced you evaded compliance: After a long period, inſtead of allotting a proper houſe, you firſt granted a tent, and then two rooms in the palace, in a ſituation where it was impoſſible to tranſact the buſineſs. You left me no alternative, and I was compelled to expreſs my true ſenſe of your conduct. The fact is, that ever ſince my arrival I have urged this matter of the Fouſdarry Addâlut: you have uniformly profeſſed obedience, but *nothing has been done*. The firſt point to be ſettled (the granting a houſe) is ſtill diſputed; it is giving both of us unneceſſary trouble to prove

Digitized by Google

facts of notoriety, which are clear as the sun at noon-day. I beg leave to require a catagorical answer of you, whether you will allot a proper house for the court of justice in the city, or whether it be your intention to evade compliance, as you have heretofore done?

In answer to your denial "of having intimidated people "from visiting me, and requiring that I should point out "the particular prrsons," it is not adviseable to furnish you with their names; but I shall do it in proper time, in my representations to the honourable the Governor General. Please to recollect yourself; and though you may chuse to deny the fact at present, the period may come when you will be silent. It is a most unpleasing circumstance to me, that affairs between us are brought to such a pass as to compel me to speak undisguised truths, in order to save my character from disgrace.

Translation of a Letter from Hyder Beg Cawn, in Reply.

I have been honoured with your letter.—I consider myself your inferior, not your equal; and I ought not to reason with you upon all subjects, particularly at the present period, that from the misrepresentation of ill-intentioned people, you are displeased with me without a cause; I am unable even to represent what is just. It is however necessary, that I should exculpate myself from blame, in not executing the orders which you have so repeatedly given me. The Vizier is the Sovereign of these countries, and I owe him obedience. In matters concerning his Excellency's rights of sovereignty, I consider it proper to submit the particulars to his consideration. I am, nevertheless ready to execute your final orders, and I have done so in many instances. His Excellency, according to the immemorial custom of his government, directed that the court of justice should be held near the Duânny Cutcherry; whereas you have repeated your commands, that a separate house should be allotted for it. I yesterday represented the particulars to his Excellency, and was desirous of communicating his pleasure to you as to-day, when my daughter unfortunately died. Grief overcomes me, and I am prevented from paying my respects to you. When I may recover the effects of this misfortune, I will wait upon you, and inform you of the result.

A true translation.

(Signed) JOHN BRISTOW,
Resident at the Vizier's Court.

Copy

Digitized by Google

Copy of a Letter from Molovy Mowbine, to Mr. Briſtow.

As you have taken me under your protection, by the grace of God the buſineſs will be now accompliſhed. I have no leiſure to ſtate at length my forlorn ſituation; be ſo obliging as to attend one moment to a ſketch of it.—I was employed in my ſchool—I ſought no ſtation—but I was deceived by the people here, who aſſured me, they had all confidence in my integrity, learning, and talents, and requeſted that I would preſide at the Addalut it was their intention to inſtitute, to the end that oppreſſion might ceaſe, and every man obtain juſtice. My objections were ſo ill received, that I was at laſt obliged to ſubmit. In a few days they appointed me a deputy of their own, who began to collect the one fourth fee, and to oppreſs the people. So ſoon as I came to the knowledge of this procedure I relinquiſhed the appointment. Then they ſaid to me, "We "have put an end to bribery and oppreſſion; we will iſſue "the pay of your eſtabliſhment from the Exchequer, and "conform to all your wiſhes." Four months elapſed, and they did nothing, and the Court diſſolved. Mr. Johnſtone ſent for me, and directed that I ſhould receive the appointment at his hands. I replied, that if ſuch was the will of the Governor and Council I was content. Mr. Johnſtone promiſed to addreſs them on the ſubject. Afterwards Mr. Middleton wrote to me twice; and ſent for me, and ſhewed me a thouſand civilities, and told me he would cauſe a ſalary of three thouſand rupees a month to be iſſued to me from the Exchequer, together with a Jehaulder Palankeen. The miniſters here would not conſent to it, and began to indicate a bad opinion of me, and to act with enmity towards me; ſaying, "Wherefore did you attach "yourſelf to the Engliſh?" As ſoon as they heard the report of your coming, he intreated me ſaying, "Admi"niſter juſtice in our way, and pay no viſit to the Reſident, "and we will be kind to you;" but I, who knew they would again oppreſs me, would by no means conſent. But now that you have taken me under your protection, if ſuch is the pleaſure of the Governor General and Council, I do ſubſcribe to it with all my ſoul. I am devoted to you, and ready to obey all your commands, but your ſupport is neceſſary to me. The Durbar is an objection to my waiting upon you in the morning; add to which, I am in fear of theſe people; their hatred will increaſe. If it be agreeable to you I will attend you in the cloſe of the evening. Pray give directions to your attendents to this effect.

A true tranſlation.

(Signed) W. COWPER.

The

Digitized by Google

The Depoſition of Molovy Mahommed Mowbine.

On Friday the 29th of Jemmaud-ul-Awul, I went to pay my reſpects to the Nabob. It happened that I met Hyder Beg Cawn; he addreſſed me in an offended tone, ſaying, "When is it that you intend to hold the Addâlut? "The length of the court is eighteen yards (or cubits) "and the breadth five; yet you have repreſented to the Re-"ſident that it conſiſts of two apartments." I anſwered, I had alledged no ſuch thing; but that ſuch as the caſe really was, ſo had I repreſented it—as you will be convinced, ſaid I, whenever you ſhall honour the Cutcherry with your preſence. I added that he had himſelf appointed the 1ſt of the month for the taking my ſeat; yet now he demanded why I did not ſit, and when I demanded it. If (ſaid I) ſuch is your pleaſure, I will inſtantly proceed to the court: he bade me do ſo, *on the firſt*. As this kind of language was new to me, and as his diſpleaſure was evident, I was greatly chagrined and diſſatisfied that I had brought myſelf into this ſcrape, connecting myſelf with great men who were quite out of my province. I therefore returned at night to the Miniſter, and deſired to know whether he was offended with me, or ſuſpected that I reported any thing to Mr. Briſtow, and that he ſhould tell me ingenuouſly. He replied, "I "ſwear to you I am not at all diſpleaſed."

N. B. The apartments of both ſides the court are full of his Excellency's furniture, the Burradarry above is occupied by his people, and at top there is a pigeon houſe.

A true tranſlation.

(Signed) W. COWPER.

True Copies.

E. Hay,

Actg. Secy. to the Secret Dept.

Mr. Briſtow's letter above recorder having arrived ſome days ago, by the conſent of the members of the Board their reſolutions, upon the complaints which were received from the Vizier and Hyder Beg Cawn againſt Mr. Briſtow, were ſuſpended until theſe papers ſhould have been circulated and conſidered.

Agreed, That copies of the complaints be now ſent to Mr. Briſtow, conformably to the reſolution of the Board of the 22d inſtant.

To Mr. John Briſtow, Reſident at the Vizier's Court.

Sir,

The Nabob Vizier and his Miniſter Hyder Beg Cawn having written ſundry letters containing violent complaints againſt

Digitized by Google

against you, we enclose copies of the translations made o them conformably to the annexed list, and require that you prepare and transmit to us without delay, your defence against each separate allegation.

We had passed a resolution to this effect so long ago as the 22d instant; but the arrival of your letter of the 13th instant induced us to suspend the execution of it till we should have read that letter and its enclosures with every attention which the importance of the subject seemed to require. We have now read them accordingly; and as they do not include every matter comprised in the complaints, we think it proper to give you this opportunity of justifying your conduct more compleatly, that we may have every evidence before us when we proceed to the final consideration of it.

Fort William, the 29th May 1783.

We are, &c.

A true Copy.
E. Hay,
Acting Secretary to the Secret Department.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.

Digitized by Google

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Printed for J. DEBRETT, oppofite Burlington Houfe, in Piccadilly.

THE PARLIAMENTARY REGISTER, containing an accurate, full and impartial account of the DEBATES of the LAST SESSION of PARLIAMENT, collated with the Notes of feveral Gentlemen who have very obligingly communicated the fame.

The Parliamentary Regifter of the Firft and Second Seffions of the prefent Parliament, in Four Volumes.—Price 1l. 16s. half bound and lettered.

The Parliamentary Regifter of the laft Parliament, complete, viz. from 1780 to 1784, in fourteen volumes.—Price 5l. 8s. half bound and lettered.

The Parliamentary Regifter of the former Parliament from 1774 to 1780, in 17 volumes. Price Six Guineas half-bound and lettered.

The REMEMBRANCER; or IMPARTIAL REPOSITORY of Public Events. The American war gave rife to this work in 1775 Every authentic paper relative to that war, as alfo with France and Spain, whether publifhed in England or America, by the Britifh Miniftry, or the American Congrefs, are all carefully inferted in this Work. The Letters of the feveral Commanding Officers, Addreffes, Refolutions of the various Committees, Conventions, &c. To thefe have been prefixed, at the defire of many perfons, a Collection of authentic Papers refpecting the Difputes with America before the Commencement of Hoftilities, from the Refolutions which gave rife to the Stamp Act in 1764, to the battle of Lexington in 1775. Complete Sets of this valuable and interefting Work may be had of the publifher in feventeen Volumes.—Price Six Guineas, half bound and lettered.

*** Thofe Gentlemen who are in want of any particular Numbers to complete fets, are earneftly intreated to order them as fpeedily as poffible.

Digitized by Google